

# —guide to— Schools

Vol. 15

PRIVATE / INDEPENDENT • CHARTER • FAITH-BASED • SPECIAL NEEDS • LANGUAGE-BASED • OUT OF AREA

## Expanding Personal Connections

Social media as a part of younger generation's everyday life; online communication.

## The Positive Influence of Social Media on Students

How social media tools became more accessible in the last several years.

## How Sports Influencers Affect the Youth

The emergence of social media in sports empowers youth to follow teams and their players at an intensity level that has never been accessible before.

## The Impact of Current Trends on Education

The biggest impact that social media has had on education, is overall better communication with peers and teachers.

## New Age of Creative Expression

Sharing and communicating is part of the human makeup and social media allows us to have the world in our hands.

## Traveling the World Through Social Media

Social media has changed the way that people view the world, especially your children.

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## EDITORIAL

**PUBLISHER**  
Jonathan Molina

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Nicole Kanderka

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Evan Jones, Gurk Sangha, Nicole Kanderka

## ART & DESIGN

**ART DIRECTION/DESIGN**  
Janross Denise Fe Cacayuran

**WEBSITE MANAGER**  
New Wave

## MARKETING

New Wave

## ADVERTISING

**SALES EXECUTIVES**  
Denice Hansen

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**  
Guide to Schools  
(403) 457-0919 x 222  
sales@theguidetoschools.ca

## CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

Disticor Inc.

## PUBLISHED BY NEW WAVE

**FOUNDING PARTNER**  
Jonathan Molina

**CORPORATE OFFICE**  
Unit C, 722 11th Ave SW  
Calgary, AB T2R 0E4

t. 403.457.0919 info@new-wave.ca  
f. 403.457.0920 www.new-wave.ca

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## Introducing The 15th Edition of the Annual Guide To Schools

A Note from the Editor in Chief

Although social media can present some risks, it's important to understand what the benefits are to give your child the guidance they need to make the best out of their social media use. Current students are living in a digital age, unlike ever before. The opportunities that come from social media and online networking can be life-changing and pose as a tool to further expand a child's education. Social media has made it possible to essentially hold the world in your hands, whether it's for looking at the latest news, upcoming trends, or your favourite products - all the information can be viewed in a matter of seconds. Classrooms are evolving to better match the digital age, focusing on building youth's online skills and preparing them for future workplaces. Online accessibility and versatility have made it possible for advanced student research and informal learning, which empowers children to do even more for themselves and communities. There is no limit for what your child can do with the massive influx of information at their fingertips. It's in this spirit that the Guide to Schools Volume 15 is brought to you this year.

In this volume, we explore topics that surround the positive effects of online media on the youth. Specifically, we wanted to give insight into different ways social media can be used to enhance a student's educational network. From using it as a tool for creative expression to aiding in decisions on long-term goals, we hope to spark inspiration! Much like the schools that we showcase in this magazine, we provide a large array of topics to explore.

Creating strong futures for students can be influenced by building genuine relationships, preparing for adulthood and the workforce, and overall leading a positive lifestyle. This volume of Guide to Schools reflects

these ideas and gives parents some extra information to get more involved with their kids' development paths! Parents, there are articles in this volume that will benefit both yourself and your kids, we encourage you to share them and have open discussions with each other.

The Guide to Schools magazine was founded to enable parents and students to make the best possible decision about where to send their children to school. We make unbiased comparisons of schools so that families can make educated decisions about which institution meets their children's needs. Our ultimate goal is for parents to have all the information necessary to make the right decision based on their family values, goals and lifestyles.

On behalf of the entire Guide to Schools organization, thank you for supporting this magazine and we all hope you enjoy the read.

Please check us out online at [theguidetoschools.ca](http://theguidetoschools.ca) and keep up to date with the latest in education by following us on:

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Kindest regards,  
Nicole Kanderka

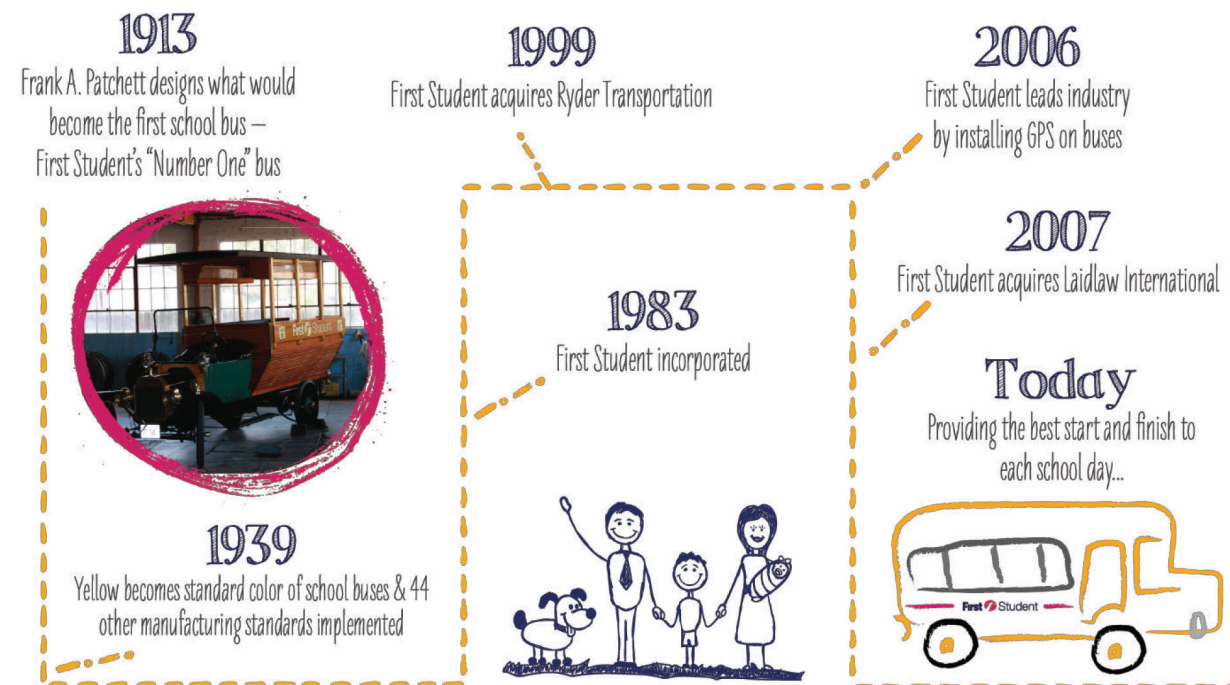






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We have more than a century of experience providing safe and reliable student transportation. Our company history traces back to 1913 when Frank A. Patchett of the Patchett Bus and Transportation Company rallied together his limited resources to develop a transportation solution to address the challenge of rapid population growth in his hometown of Newman, California. Using a Ford Model-T frame, he attached bench seats, wood paneling and a roof to the truck's flatbed — a preliminary design that would go on to become the yellow school bus we know and love today. Patchett's bus, now known as First Student's "Number One" bus, is so significant and symbolic to the community that it is incorporated into the city's crest. Today, the City of Newman remains a valued member of the First Student family and our celebrated 105-year-old bus exemplifies the strength and longevity of our community relationships. Our solid reputation and record of performance demonstrates our ability to deliver on our promises.



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#### CONTACT US

Yacine Belhadj  
Area General Manager

First Canada ULC  
732 41 Ave NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 3P9

PH: 403.471.8418  
Email: [yacine.belhadj1@firstgroup.com](mailto:yacine.belhadj1@firstgroup.com)





# Securing Social Connections

by Nicole Kanderka

As social media is now a part of everyday life, younger generations need to learn how to communicate online to prepare them for future opportunities in the workplace and support them while interacting with friends and family. Social media removes the boundaries of meeting people and managing bonds beyond borders. For children who may have a disability or feel like they cannot connect easily with others within their community, social media can be a great way to connect with other people who share their interests without the stress of physically spending time together. Networking is based on connecting with others that share similar ideologies, hobbies, and lifestyles which can be reassuring for most youth feeling isolated. Social media platforms create access points to family members and friends who may live hours apart, this can help maintain relationships and allow them to stay in touch with ease. Staying in contact with a loved-one virtually can make life transitions much simpler

and remove stress from your child. As technology becomes a larger part of everyday life, solid online communication skills are increasingly more important than ever before. Social media diversifies your child's social skills, which in turn helps them navigate successfully through modern society. This includes increased social confidence, heightened literacy in the media, and more peer-based social support. Through social media, youth are learning how to navigate not only social networking sites but also other methods of online communication that are used in education or throughout workplaces. In the end, their growth through social media platforms makes them better communicators in an increasingly digital world.





# New Age of Creative Expression

by Nicole Kanderka

Sharing and communicating is part of the human makeup and social media allows us to have the world in our hands. The feeling of closeness through social networking stems from the capability of instant engagement and global interactions. Creative inspiration is more accessible than ever before due to the rapid expansion of social media platforms. Social media tools provide a popular outlet for creative discovery and self-expression. Built-in media features allow users to create digital masterpieces directly within app interfaces, allowing open accessibility options for any age or skill group. From photo and video editing to digital painting, there is a network of creators that fits every niche. Not only are you able to share work such as photography, film, written works and illustrations, other users can offer comments and feedback which can offer the profound benefit of building self-esteem and confidence. Millions, if not billions, of people now express themselves

through their creative output on social media with wildly varying degrees of success. The flood of content from creators encourages youth to exercise creativity and innovative thinking for their work to stand out amongst the crowd. Social platforms run on the basis of engagement, therefore the more unique the creative content is, the better. Informal learning can take place on online communities to further develop a child's creative skillset. Social media reflects changing creative trends, which is beneficial to your child to aid in continuing the growth of their creativity. Creativity is essential for success in schoolwork, friendships, and a future career path. Social media's premise is connecting and sharing, which is a perfect place for your child to find inspiration for their next passion.



# The Positive Influence of Social Media on Students

by Gurk Sangha

Social media tools are readily accessible on the Internet, and in the last several years, they have become even easier to access via applications on smartphones and tablets. There's no denying that, ever since social networks and social media made way into our lives, everything is different. Beginning with the way we socialize, interact, plan for events or even how often we go outside. This article proposes to focus on the numerous ways in which social media is changing the way the education system works. Stay tuned to find out what effects social networking has on the way our children are educated both at school and outside of it.

Starting from elementary school up until university graduation, social media has the role to empower parents, students and teachers to use new ways of sharing information and build a community. Social media allows students to be more connected to the world than ever before.

Students can now be up to date on real-world events and even voice their opinion on topics that helps with growth and developing a sense of voice that young students may find difficult to discover in real-life interactions. For example, the devastating fires in Australia are a current topic on social media and young students are voicing their concerns and using that voice online to spread awareness amongst peers, while encouraging others to help all over the world.

The benefits of social media in the education process doesn't stop with the students. Social media can be extremely important to parents as well, as there are a lot of other benefits that can be extracted from the use of social networking. For example, principals or administrators are finding new ways to integrate social media. Like sharing school news via social networks, holding online meetings with the parents or even starting fundraising for different projects.

Social media can also quickly become the only channel of communication since we're living fast-paced lives, parents are usually busy with work and cannot attend school meetings. But this doesn't mean they shouldn't be in touch with events or be able to check on their kids every once in a while. Some parents do not have time to regularly communicate with teachers face-to-face and the use of social media can be a solution to helping parents staying updated with their child's schooling.

Social media is a big part of our day to day life and there is no point in keeping it away from the education process. Schools, college and university staff should be encouraged to make use of technology for student and parent communication and permanently changing the way our children will learn.





# Traveling the World Through Social Media

by Evan Jones

Social media has changed the way that people view the world, especially your children. You can visually travel to every corner of the earth after scrolling through social media for 10 minutes and even be struck with desires to go places you've never even heard of off a simple picture or video post. Let's face it, after all that time spent on social media, your children probably know more about hotspot destinations and traveling the world than you do. The emergence of platforms such as Instagram and YouTube have created a travel explosion that previous generations never had the pleasure or privilege of experiencing. With so much so fast, in such a sudden large surge, is the combination of youth, social media, and travel a good thing or bad thing?

Let's start with the good news first. What's something we're always preaching? DREAM BIG. Being exposed to a multitude of different countries, cities, and cultures a day opens your children's mind to a world beyond their everyday lives. Social media has a unique ability to showcase an abundance of content in a matter of minutes. Travel content often stresses on dream destinations and experiences, which gives your child the ability to visualize a dream and strive for it as a long-term goal. The process of striving for such a long-term goal is special because our children don't always get the opportunity to set large goals at such a young age. This goal requires lots of planning and commitment to make traveling to a destination for an experience a reality. It is this exact learning

process of setting a long-term goal and realizing the steps that need to be taken to achieve that goal that makes travel content on social media so beneficial for youth. Dreaming beyond the world that your child lives everyday is important, and travel content allows them to do exactly that.

Onto the bad news. Hard to imagine there could be any negatives after realizing all of the benefits that your children could experience through perusing travel content on their phones. Even though travel is much cheaper than it used to be, the exposure to such luxurious travel destinations and experiences and the creation of such large travel goals, it can become a budget-busting ordeal. More often than not, social media influencers are attempting to create a brand of themselves that showcases experiences of wealth and luxury. The reality that reaching those unrealistic goals may not always be possible can be discouraging and downright unfair at times.

It comes down to perspective. There are a ton of benefits to youth using social media to explore travel curiosities and expand their minds to get a better understanding of all the world has to offer. Like much of the stuff that you and your children see on the internet and social media, you should take it with a grain of salt. Don't believe everything you see and make sure you're realistic about taking things to heart. Happy travel browsing, keep dreaming big!





# 1 COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

The biggest impact that social media has had on education is overall better communication with peers and teachers. A student can connect with anyone at any point in time via text message, email or various other messaging platforms. They can use such platforms via their smartphone, tablet or computer, and learners can ask questions, make phone calls or video calls. If a student is stuck with their homework, they can always communicate with their friends or tutors online. They don't need to wait and meet the teacher physically. Social media promotes learning by offering support with sharing documents, presentations and files while allowing users to work on projects simultaneously, while not physically being near one another. Social networking sites can also facilitate discussion of homework and assignment topics and provide a base for research and fact-finding initiatives.

# The Impact of Current Trends on Education

by Gurk Sangha







## 3 IMPROVED LITERACY, COMMUNICATION, AND READING SKILLS

It is very obviously observed that students are bored with reading and writing. With attention spans getting shorter and shorter, the internet and social media provide plenty of online information which often students are more inclined to read, especially if these pieces of information include eye-catching animations. Online messages, comments, news, articles, and books provide an endless list of information to be read, and students are motivated to devote their time and put some extra efforts towards their learning.

Such online activities contribute to a child's general learning, and kids eventually develop stronger reading habits resulting in a drastic improvement in their writing abilities. Social media sites are in the most part interactive and this keeps the student involved.

## 2 FINDING RELIABLE INFORMATION ONLINE

Various websites and social media networks are providing plenty of information that can be helpful to students such as social media news feeds, students can find informational and relevant websites they want to follow to be kept in the loop. Through the use of social media, depending on their interests, students can find answers to their questions and can offer children inspiration for school projects or practical problem-solving. Students can also watch videos, view pictures and read blogs, many of which have educational benefits.

The educational benefits of social networking sites are also those that help students prepare for important lessons and learn certain concepts. Social media websites will contain the latest data on various school subjects and thus, the students have the opportunity to survey and look into what is new.







# How Sports Influencers Affect the Youth

by Evan Jones

Getting to know today's biggest sports icons beyond their play on the field has never been easier than it is today. The emergence of social media in sports empowers youth to follow teams and their players at an intensity level that has never been accessible before. The popularity and mass consumption of social media is what makes it one of the most important tools for connecting professional sports and youth. The ability to engage with fans of all ages from almost anywhere has enhanced fan interaction and resulted in a unique display of fan loyalty where youth are holding their sports idols to the utmost highest regard. There is more opportunity than ever for athletes to further connect with their fans and showcase themselves in the public eye. The integration of social media in the world of sports makes professional athletes some of the biggest influencers and role models for youth.

The role of athletes as influencers can foster so many benefits for children when an athlete understands how to use social media positively. Social media platforms give youth the ability to get a glimpse behind the scenes and beyond what the mainstream media is portraying. Understanding the day-to-day lives of their sports icons offers role-model-seeking youths an invaluable learning experience that wouldn't be possible without social media. The displays of relentless work ethic and professionalism on the playing field and in life by many top-tier athletes gives children a high standard to strive for in their own personal day-to-day lives. The ability to witness these positive characteristics first hand from such prominent figures gives a

unique motivation to apply the same positive characteristics in their own life. Whether in school, sports, or in their own community, the lessons learned from following the world's greatest athletes on social media can enhance youth's lives.

Social media is a blessing and a curse. When used properly social media can be a connecting force, bringing youth closer to their childhood heroes. Unfortunately not every athlete under the spotlight understands how to use it positively. As positive as social media can be in sports for youth, negative interactions and comments can spread just as fast. These incidents are often highlighted in mainstream media. It's the responsibility of youth and their parents to be able to distinguish between the positive and negative, to take the positive with a full heart and let the negative fall by the wayside.

It boils down to understanding how to educate youth and incorporate social media into sports in a positive manner that benefits them. Fortunately, lessons on sports and social media are now initiated at a very young age as there are many youth sports teams using social media platforms to enhance the youth sporting experience. This can serve as both a learning experience for the youth and their parents involved. The early emergence of sports and social media at a young age is an opportunity for parents to teach youth good habits, and create habits that focus on the benefits of social media in sports.



# THIS YEAR, SIX ALBERTA COMMUNITIES WILL HAVE NEW PLACES TO GET ACTIVE

*Alberta Blue Cross is proud to give another six communities a chance to make their dreams of active living a reality through the Healthy Communities Grant Program, which has supported more than two dozen projects across the province with funding totalling \$1.6 million.*

Recognizing the challenges communities face in creating amenities to promote active living, Alberta Blue Cross responded by launching their Healthy Communities Grant Program in 2013.

Over the last seven years, our program has given funds to support amenities including bike and skateboard parks, outdoor gyms, sports courts, and of course, new and replacement playgrounds.

“The Healthy Communities Grant Program supports community projects that reflect our mandate of giving back to the community while encouraging the health and wellness of all Albertans,” says Brian Geislinger, vice-president of Corporate Relations with Alberta Blue Cross.

Each year, grants for \$50,000 are awarded in Edmonton, Calgary, one secondary city and one rural community with a focus on ensuring grants are equitably distributed on a regional basis. In 2017, Alberta Blue Cross expanded the program by adding a ‘special merit’ grant, and in 2018 they further expanded the program by adding a grant specifically for projects in Indigenous communities. Funding for the program comes from the ABC Benefits Corporation Foundation.

As an Alberta-based, not-for-profit organization, Alberta Blue Cross covers more than 1.8 million Albertans and has a unique focus on supporting the health and wellness of Albertans. Alberta Blue Cross is ranked as one of Alberta’s Top 70 Employers, Top 10 Most Loved Brands and one of Canada’s Most Admired Corporate Cultures.

Six new recipients were announced for 2020 including the following:

#### **Edmonton**

St. Elizabeth Parent Advisory Board—playground replacement

#### **Calgary**

Riverbend Elementary School—inclusive playground development

#### **Secondary Cities**

Christina Gordon public school in Fort McMurray—accessible and inclusive playground enhancement

#### **Rural Communities**

Alder Flats Elementary School fundraising society—playground redevelopment

#### **Indigenous Communities**

Enoch Cree Nation—Maskekosihk community playground project

#### **Special Merit**

Medicine Hat Early Childhood Coalition—natural playground



The Alberta Blue Cross mascot, Big Blue, jumping for joy at the new Win Ferguson School playground on September 21, 2018.





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## Learning About Private and Independent Schools

Some parents will inevitably prefer that their child receives education outside of the public school system and, therefore, may decide to enroll their child in a school that follows the private system. Private and independent schools are founded, conducted and maintained by a private group rather than by the government and often charge tuition, or have other fees associated with enrollment.

In Alberta there are two types of private schools: registered private schools and accredited private schools. Registered private schools, defined by the School Act, meet the basic registration requirements established by the Minister, and are not eligible for Alberta Education funding. As well, registered are not required to teach the Alberta Program of Study but are expected to have results that are uniform with The Goals and Standards Applicable to the Provisions of Basic Education in Alberta. Accredited private schools are approved by the Minister under the School Act, and request additional recognition beyond basic registration to obtain accredited character. Any private school that is non-funded is required to enroll seven or more students and from a total of two or more families.

Accredited private schools break into three different categories:

- Accredited non-funded schools are predominantly language and culture schools, but some put focus on adult learning.
- Accredited funded schools meet educational standards and are entitled to partial provincial funding. In accredited funded schools students are required to write provincial tests and are taught the Alberta Programs Study by Alberta certified teachers.
- Designated Special Education Private Schools (DSEPS) only work with students who have special needs, and provide education services to students who are entitled to special learning programs. DSEPS', which are approved every year by the Director of the Special Programs Branch, meet the same liability requirements for funding as public systems and receive the same special education funding rates.

According to the Alberta Education, accredited private schools must employ certified teachers and must follow the

Alberta Education Program of Studied, which identifies what students are expected to learn and do in all subjects and grades.

Many private and independent schools follow a particular philosophy or viewpoint that is based on a careful match between school and parent values about learning. A long-term commitment is desired by private school educators in order to allow individual students to achieve the Alberta curriculum according to their own development and encourages mastery over content before moving a student to a more challenging level. Students will exercise project-based learning with specialist teachers in the core curriculum as well as in art, drama, music, language, home economics, and computer science. All of these options take a well-balanced approach and give students control over their learning.

Private and independent schools focus on well-rounded integrated studies programs that will provide students the opportunity to pursue their academic interests and provide additional opportunities for students to learn hands-on skills, for example in culinary arts or a shop dedicated to maintenance.

Alberta respects parental choice and upholds its educational standards, which reflects one of the reasons why the province is recognized for providing its citizens with one of the best education systems in the world. Built on a range of educational choices that provide diversity and healthy competition, independent and private schools were designed to enhance the efforts of providing excellence in education, and be an integral part to Alberta's development of a first-rate school system.



# private/independent schools







## Banbury Crossroads

Established in 1979, Banbury Crossroads School offers full Junior-K to Grade 12. Our purpose is to meet individual needs and to help students become self-sufficient. Banbury is a school that feels like home.

Due to our non-traditional, Self-Directed Learning approach, students are happy and engaged in learning. We encourage students to plan their day and to design their assignments depending on their interests. We guide them to make decisions about their goals, the materials they need, and how to monitor their progress. We don't stress competition between students since it creates performance anxiety. We also explore their world on many field trips, internships, and volunteer projects. We follow the Alberta Curriculum.

Every child is different, so we teach and mentor each child individually. Banbury trusts students to make scheduling decisions and to learn at their own pace. Gifted and self-motivated students thrive with us! With our tutorial approach, teachers move around, assisting, and teaching every child one-on-one, with daily feedback. This efficient approach leads to superior academic accomplishments.

We believe in multi-aged groups which prevents social problems when children learn at different rates. Banbury operates three multi-aged groups: age 3–6, 7–11, and 12–18. Having students together with older or younger peers, and not having marks on report cards, gives classrooms a very different vibe. Children love to learn from each other, and they learn leadership skills too.

We encourage mutual respect. Students can be themselves. They are encouraged to make their own decisions, as long as they respect the rights of others. Effective communication in groups of 8 models negotiation, problem-solving require mutual respect. It leads to comfort, confidence, and happiness.

Our well-balanced approach creates an enriched and positive school experience that prepares students academically, emotionally, and socially for post-secondary education and for life.

**Contact Information:**  
**Banbury Crossroads School**  
**Phone (403) 270-7787**  
**general@banburycrossroads.com**  
**www.banburycrossroads.com**

## Bow Valley College

As Alberta's largest community college and a proud partner in Campus Alberta, Bow Valley College serves 16,000 students each year in Calgary and throughout southern Alberta. We offer year-round career certificate, diploma, post-diploma and post-baccalaureate programs as well as high school upgrading and English language learning. We also offer a range of career services, and specialized services to support newcomers to Canada with securing viable careers and professional accreditation.

Bow Valley College delivers programs and skills that make you think in new and creative ways, removing obstacles to fulfilling and lasting employment. In fact, 88 per cent of our graduates find employment within one year of finishing their studies.

Our main campus is steps away from the city hall C-Train platform, shopping, restaurants, events and Calgary's trendy east village. Fast, focused, and flexible - that's the reality of a Bow Valley College education.

**Contact Information:**  
**Banbury Crossroads**  
**Phone (403) 410-1400**  
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## Calgary Academy Collegiate

At Calgary Academy, we design student-centered experiences that nurture a love of learning from Kindergarten to Grade 12. For nearly 40 years we've refined our innovative Academy and Collegiate programs, woven together by our four pillars and guiding principles, to empower unique learners to pursue lives of passion and purpose. Through extraordinarily small class sizes led by expert teachers, our students develop the independence, skills, and confidence to thrive.

Our Collegiate program features small class sizes designed to empower students who are performing at or above grade level to embrace greater independence in their learning. We challenge our students to move from an environment where learning and assessment are based on what's been taught, to an environment that pushes them to discover, explore ideas, and challenge the status quo.

Collegiate students gain the skills and experience necessary for success in post-secondary and beyond. With a strong foundation in creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication, our students will thrive wherever life takes them.

We provide a range of experiences geared towards inspiring students to take their learning to new heights. By creating a more challenging learning environment with complex activities and immersive cross-grade collaborations, we give students the freedom to explore new experiences and topics, thereby expanding their depth of understanding.

Collegiate students are encouraged to support and positively challenge one another during class. The dynamic environment and team-based activities create strong bonds between students and meaningful relationships with teachers. Our students become teammates, partners and co-creators while learning to thrive in a collaborative environment. Visit our large community on:

Facebook @wearecalgaryacademy.

**Contact Information:**  
**Phone (403) 686-6444**  
**info@calgaryacademy.com**  
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## CEFA

CEFA Early Learning is Canada's private school for the early years. CEFA's progressive curriculum is designed to stimulate the child during the most important developmental years. Children ages 1 to 5 learn reading, writing, mathematics, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), in addition to visual arts, dance, music, drama, yoga, culture immersion, and more. Natacha V. Beim established CEFA in 1998 to prepare children for school and life through the curriculum she designed, while ensuring that each subject is taught through games and play. CEFA's world class early learning curriculum was developed by examining international best practices and is refined utilizing the latest research in behavioral and developmental sciences and psychology. It features a unique partnership of core subjects and fine arts providing children with the freedom to learn and grow through play. The CEFA curriculum addresses what Beim has identified as the four pillars of learning: Knowledge, Creativity, Social and Emotional Development, and Innovation.

In order to teach using the CEFA Methodology, teachers at CEFA schools are required to complete a CEFA Teacher Certification Training, in addition to being certified Early Childhood Educators. This ensures CEFA teachers are not only provided the tools to be successful with the curriculum, but to be inspired and inspire others with the unique program.

Our schools all feature state-of-the-art classrooms and facilities, such as libraries, art rooms, cinemas, and music rooms. All providing a real school feel to prepare students for their next adventure once they graduate from CEFA. All locations also feature an in-house chef to create delicious, hot and healthy meals for students. These are served everyday as breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.

CEFA is proud to be a Canadian company and started franchising in 2003, now with over 20 locations.

**Contact Information:**  
**Phone +1 (604) 708 -2332**  
**info@cefa.ca**  
**www.CEFA.ca**

## Clear Water Academy

Clear Water Academy is an independent private Catholic day school located in the heart of Calgary, Alberta in the neighbourhood of Currie. The school mission is to provide the highest quality education and to form Christian leaders. Clear Water Academy has been consistently ranked by the Fraser Institute as one of Alberta's top schools. It is also one of the few schools in Canada to offer a gender specific approach to education, centered upon the principles of the Catholic faith.

The Integral Formation philosophy of education at Clear Water Academy seeks to educate the whole person. This proven educational model fosters academic excellence and character development, as well as spiritual formation and a commitment to apostolic works.

As an accredited university preparatory school, Clear Water Academy offers its students a core academic curriculum taught by highly qualified teachers, as well as specialized courses such as Religion, Spanish, French, Outdoor Education, Music, Art, Drama and Debate. Spiritual growth is encouraged through the celebration of mass, confession, retreats and one-on-one guidance. Building on their solid academic and spiritual foundation, students participate in virtue programs, service projects and a number of extra curricular activities. The Deans of Students promote character and apostolic development, helping students gain a better understanding of self and the difference they can make in the world around them. Our Athletics Department offers an exceptional physical education and fitness programs, dynamic inter-school competitive teams, and a consummate outdoor education program.

Small class sizes, gender specific classes from grades 4–9, the Integral Formation method of education and faithful, devoted staff ensure that graduates of Clear Water Academy become well prepared citizens of principle and integrity who are committed to making a difference in the world.

**Contact Information:**  
**Phone (403) 240-7924**  
**(Val Blahut, Admissions Director)**  
**admissions@clearwateracademy.com**  
**www.clearwateracademy.com**



**North Point School for Boys**

North Point School for Boys is an independent day school, centrally located in Calgary, accredited by Alberta Education, affiliated with CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools) and a member of Calgary's Independent Schools Athletic Association. North Point was founded in 2014 to provide boys from Kindergarten to Grade 9 with a learning environment that caters to the way boys learn and behave.

At North Point, boys are challenged and motivated, resulting in a genuine love of learning. Through strong mentors, experiential learning in and outside the classroom, and technology, we allow our students to discover who they are and how they learn. We believe that every child has a gift and it's our job to help recognize and foster that gift.

North Point School follows and expands on the requirements of the Alberta Curriculum. Socratic teaching methods are utilized to encourage critical thinking and analysis. Extensive assessment of skill level, learning style and aptitude allows for individualized education plans. The latest in educational technology is used to deliver reading, writing and math skills, ensuring that a student has mastered each element of a subject before progressing on to the next level. Experiential learning gives concepts purpose and context, while developing independence. North Point introduces age-appropriate learning through our discovery programs.

**ENGINEERING Academy:** STE(A)M  
**FINANCIAL Academy:** Financial literacy and entrepreneurship program; Boys in Business Fair

**ACTION Fridays:** Variety of cultural, sport, community and experiential activities

**OUTDOOR Education:** Outdoor Retreat, Mountain Day, Garden Project, Utah Travel Program

*Contact Information:*  
*Phone (403) 744-5214*  
*info@northpoint.school*  
*www.www.northpoint.school*

**River Valley School**

River Valley School is an independent school located in the heart of Calgary, offering programming from Pre-JK (Age 3) to Grade 6. At RVS, learning occurs in a cooperative, nurturing environment—one that optimizes each child's potential, innate curiosity, love of learning, self-efficacy and confidence. The school is dedicated to high academic achievement, but also to supporting each and every child and their overall well-being and development. At River Valley School, every student is provided with opportunities to flourish – the entire community is aligned in the school's mission to embrace the unique talents of each child, support different learning styles, and empower every student to achieve their personal best.

*Contact Information:*  
*Phone (403) 246-2275*  
*info@rivervalleyschool.ca*  
*www.rivervalleyschool.ca*

**Rundle College**

Rundle College is an independent, co-educational, day school in the City of Calgary for students in kindergarten to grade 12. We offer 3 unique programs: Rundle College Primary/Elementary (kindergarten-grade 6), Rundle College Junior/Senior High (grades 7-12) and Rundle Academy (grade 4-12 learning disability program).

For more information on Rundle Academy, look under "Special Needs Schools"

in this publication. Rundle College is accredited by Alberta Education, affiliated with CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools) and a member of Calgary's Independent Schools Athletic Association.

Rundle College students have average to superior academic ability and are challenged by the rigorous academic curriculum. Our school nurtures the academic, social and emotional development of our students, focusing on developing well-rounded individuals prepared for life beyond the classroom.

Our top priority at Rundle is to maintain small class sizes ranging from 6-15 students. Our students achieve their full potential and are highly engaged in their learning, resulting in strong academic performance. Rundle teachers are dedicated and enthusiastic with numerous teaching specialists in both academic and complimentary courses. Rundle College is well known for its exceptional extracurricular programs and students develop leadership skills, independence, social and team building skills through a variety of activities. Students participate in an array of athletic intramurals, outstanding sports teams, clubs, second languages, music, and drama programs. At Rundle we have an extensive field trip and travel program that provides opportunities for students to apply their knowledge both in our community and abroad. Rundle's humanitarian program highlights the importance of giving back to society and develops our students as compassionate global citizens.

*Contact Information:*  
*Phone (403) 291-3866*  
*collegeadmissions@rundle.ab.ca*  
*www.rundle.ab.ca*

**West Island College**

We unleash the potential of passionate and creative problem solvers, ready to contribute to a better world who challenge, inspire and support one another as they imagine and create their best futures.

WIC students are ready for the challenges and opportunities life presents them. Through academic rigour and a supportive environment, our students become resilient problem-solvers who believe they can, and will, achieve what they set out to do.

Together, WIC students and faculty build a powerful culture of creativity that is without boundaries. We are critical thinkers who challenge ideas, pave new paths and encourage inventiveness whenever possible.

West Island College is a university-preparatory school that emphasizes respect, responsibility and citizenship. We believe that inspiring our students to pursue excellence in academics, leadership, athletics and global awareness prepares them for success in the 21st century and beyond. In addition to exceptional teachers, an Advanced Placement Program, small class sizes and extensive co-curricular activities, WIC offers courses in French (Immersion or Second Language) and Spanish (Second Language).

From our International Studies program and authentic student leadership opportunities to Outdoor Education and WIC's Institutes, students are challenged to discover what hands-on learning really means.

WIC is dedicated to inspiring our students through our academic courses, timetabling and extraordinary experiential opportunities, as well as through our physical environment and student supports. A WIC, education not only builds a strong knowledge base but inspires students to connect their passions to purpose for the rest of their lives.

With 37 years of success in Calgary, West Island College has a proven track record of innovation, growth, success and leadership.

*Contact Information:*  
*Phone (403) 444-0023*  
*admissions@mywic.ca*  
*www.westislandcollege.ab.ca*  
*Admissions Office*  
*7530 Blackfoot Trail S.E.*  
*Calgary, Alberta*  
*T2H 1M5*

Calgary Waldorf School  
Edelweiss Preparatory School  
Equilibrium Senior High & ESL School  
Green Learning Academy & Foundation  
Montessori School of Calgary  
Tanbridge Academy  
Master's Academy and College  
Edge School for Athletes  
Webber Academy



# charter schools



## Chartering and Schools

What is a charter school? This is a question that may lurk the minds of most parents, especially as they see the increasing popularity charter schools have gained amongst other parents, children, school educators and some federal governments. According to the Canadian Charter Schools Centre, charter schools are autonomous public schools with a unique focus that sets them apart from other public schools. They do not charge tuition and operate under a time-specific contract (charter), normally granted for 3 to 5 years, that stipulates the school's mission, program and goals. At the end of the term, the schools that are successful may renew their contract.

Since charter law was passed in 1990 by state legislature, charter schools have emerged as an alternative to the traditional system of education and have experienced an increase in reaching parents and children. In Canada, Alberta is the only province that offers charter public schools, and currently there are 13 charter schools in Alberta; six of which are in Calgary. Funded by the province, Alberta's charter schools follow the Alberta Program of Study teach the Alberta Education curriculum. Among the six member schools in Calgary are an all-girls school and a school for gifted students, as well as programs with specialized instructions in arts and science.

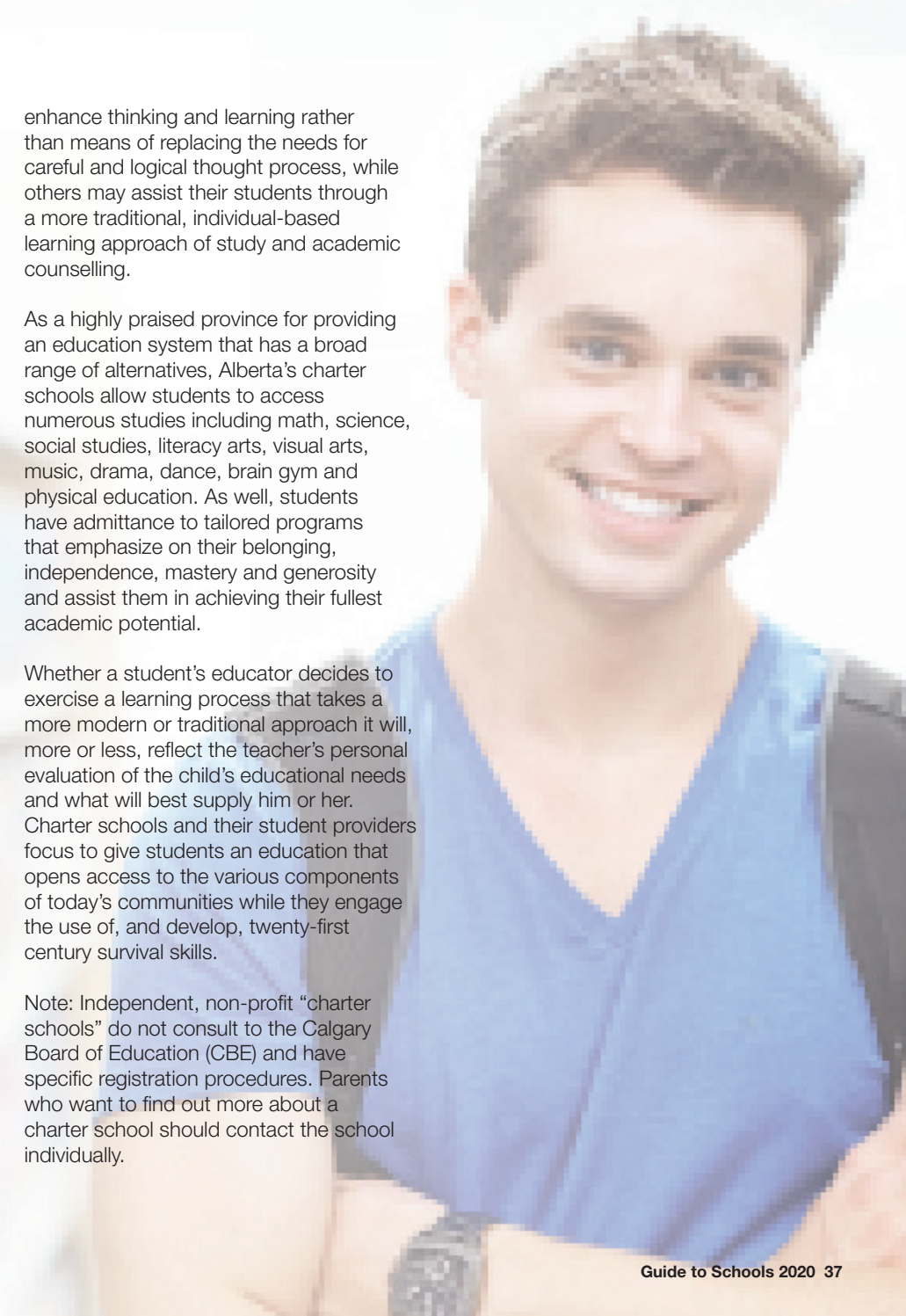
Based around a distinctive environment that concentrates on personalized learning, charter schools run freely of today's public school systems where teachers focus highly on the different learning styles among their students. Some teachers will craft the same lesson in a number of different ways such as incorporating technology as an educational tool to

enhance thinking and learning rather than means of replacing the needs for careful and logical thought process, while others may assist their students through a more traditional, individual-based learning approach of study and academic counselling.

As a highly praised province for providing an education system that has a broad range of alternatives, Alberta's charter schools allow students to access numerous studies including math, science, social studies, literacy arts, visual arts, music, drama, dance, brain gym and physical education. As well, students have admittance to tailored programs that emphasize on their belonging, independence, mastery and generosity and assist them in achieving their fullest academic potential.

Whether a student's educator decides to exercise a learning process that takes a more modern or traditional approach it will, more or less, reflect the teacher's personal evaluation of the child's educational needs and what will best supply him or her. Charter schools and their student providers focus to give students an education that opens access to the various components of today's communities while they engage the use of, and develop, twenty-first century survival skills.

Note: Independent, non-profit "charter schools" do not consult to the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) and have specific registration procedures. Parents who want to find out more about a charter school should contact the school individually.





# Other:

- Calgary Waldorf School
- Edelweiss Preparatory School
- Equilibrium Senior High & ESL School
- Ernest Manning High School
- Green Learning Academy & Foundation
- Montessori School of Calgary
- Tanbridge Academy
- Webber Academy



charter schools

	Grades Offered	Religious Affiliation	Entrance Requirements Performed	Tuition	School Fees	One Time Bond/Mem. Fee	Bussing Available	Bussing Fees	Uniform Required	Bursaries Available	Fundraising Required	School Population (elementary, jr. high, sr. high)	Average Expenditure/student	Year Established	Year Constructed	Year Remodeled	Parent Conferences/year	Average Class Size (elementary, jr. high, sr. high)	Students to Teaching Staff	No. Guidance Counselors	No. Athletic Extra-Curricular Activities	No. Other Extra-Curricular Activities	Lunchroom	Cafeteria	Library	No. Instructional Days/school year	No. Teacher Improvement Days/school year	Bachelor	Masters	Doctorate	Band/Music	Computers	Art	Drama	French	Spanish	German	Other Languages	AP Courses	IB Courses	Outdoor Education	Trades	Programming for Learning Disabilities	Programming for ESL	Programming for Giftedness	Students to Computers	SAT Available	% Grade 12 Students Graduate	% Graduates Attending Post-Secondary Institutions	Wheelchair Accessible	Length of School Day (h:mm)	
Almadina Language Charter Academy	K-9		●	\$0	\$0		●	\$75				99,156	N/A	1996	N/A	N/A	3	21,18	11&:1			3	4			●	182	7	100	0	0		●	●	●	●					●	●			4:1		N/A	N/A		6:30		
Calgary Arts Academy	K-9	●	●	\$0	\$155-335		●	\$225-450				299	\$8307	2003	1956	2004	3	19,18	18:1	0		9	10			●	174	8	100	27	0	●	●	●	●					●	●	●	●	4&:1	●	N/A	N/A	●	6:30			
Calgary Girls School	4-9		●	\$0	\$85+laptop		●	\$725	●			600	N/A	2003	1950	on-going	3	25,25	17:1	2		5	4	●	●	●	181	5	100	15	0	●	●	●	●					●	●	●		1:1		N/A	N/A		6:20			
Calgary Science School	4-9		●	\$0	\$320-350		●	\$625		●		600	\$7500	1999	1964	2002	3	25,25	17:1	1		10	16		●	186	16	100	15	0	●	●	●	●					●						2:1		N/A	N/A	●	6:30		
Foundations for the Future Charter Academy	K-12		●	\$0	\$115-195		●	\$780 two way	●			3510	N/A	1997	N/A	N/A	3	23,26,24	N/A	8		32	36	●	●	●	187	6	100	43	0		●	●	●	●					●					4:1		94	85	●	7:00	
Westmount Charter School	K-12	●	●	\$0	\$155-285		●	\$375-750				1130	\$10860	1996	1952/1966	2011	2	17,23,21	15&:3	4		6	20	●	●	●	175	15	100	15	1	●	●	●	●	●			●	●					●	●	2:3		99	80	●	6:30



# faith-based schools

## The History of How Faith Was Established in Canadian School Systems

In Canadian education faith has been contentious for centuries, and it was between 1867 and 1975 when the British North America Act, a series of laws, was passed by the UK legislature to create the Domain of Canada as an independent colony that would become a self-governing country. Within the British North America Act was the creation of two school systems funded by Upper and Lower Canada, now named Ontario and Quebec. During the early nineteenth century religious study was considered an extremely integral part of education, and became problematic when colonial governments began to set up publicly funded school systems. Because Catholics and Protestants had completely separate views on how faith should be delivered, two school systems were established, a Catholic and a Protestant.

## The Current Canadian School System and Faith

Today a vast number of beliefs are practiced in Canada and, while faith doesn't play an active role in most regular public schools, faith-based education serves as a core component on some provinces' public and private school systems.

A faith-based school teaches general curriculum and either can have certain religious character or has formal association with a religious organization. Distinct from other school institutions, faith-based schools provide students with both academic and spiritual education that respects their culture and beliefs. Faith-based education is fostered mainly or wholly by quality professionals who engage, and exercise, with students religious teachings.

In Alberta, faith-based schools build educational lessons around the Alberta Education curriculum, and teachers

incorporate education that leads to development of the student intellectually, physically, artistically, socially, morally and spiritually. In the classroom students are provided with a sense of community and, together with classmates, come to understand personal academic excellence and Christ-like characters in themselves and each other.

Essentially, faith-based schools concentrate on encouraging students to intake religious learning and educates student on every aspect of expressing their distinctiveness, vitality and character.









## Clear Water Academy

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- Edelweiss Preparatory School
- Equilibrium Senior High & ESL School
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## RUNDLE COLLEGE & RUNDLE ACADEMY

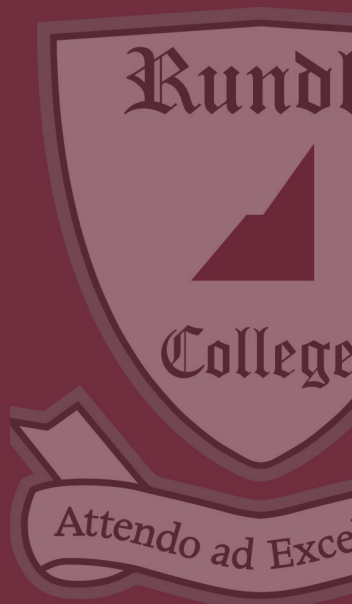
SMALL CLASS SIZE. BIG EXPERIENCE!

Rundle College offers an enriched academic experience  
for students in Kindergarten - Grade 12

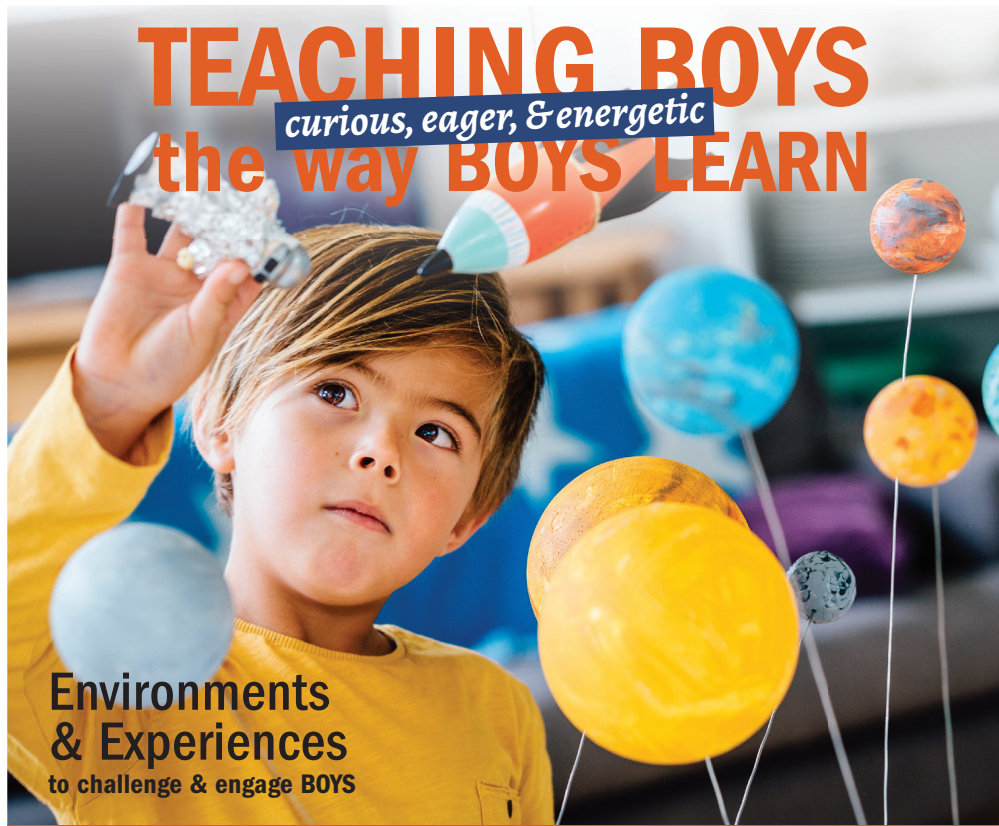
Rundle Academy offers a premier academic program for  
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Independent, coeducational day school  
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Small class sizes ranging from 6-15 students (*depending on program*)

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# special needs schools

## A Special Learning Opportunity

Often Canadian families have a difficult time addressing the special learning requirements of their child and, in the past, may have felt forced to steer their way through the school system with little to no guidance. While all public schools, by law, are required to provide special education programs, not every school is able to address the specific needs of each child.

Alberta respects and caters to the idea that all children learn differently and provides to children who have special needs that require support beyond what is offered in other school settings. The province's school system is recognized for being one of the world's best and provides two main types of special needs schools: accredited non-profit private schools and designated special education private schools. Accredited non-profit private schools are operated by a non-profit society or corporation and receive the same funding for severe special needs children (those who traditionally have been labelled having grave to profound mental retardation)

as public schools do, where designated special education private schools do not have such an affiliation, and parents of students identified as having special needs can elect to have their child attend.

To identify and better understand a child's particular requirements that will enable them to flourish in a special needs learning environment, school boards develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP). IEP's are based on a thorough assessment of a child's needs and strengths to learn, and describes the special education program and/or services required for him or her. This allows special needs educators to identify a child's potential, and foster social development through tailored accommodations and/or learning programs. Such accommodations and learning programs are modified above or below the age-appropriate grade level expectations of a child for a specific subject or course and utilize a curriculum that is infused with strategy-based learning methods.

Within special needs schools, educators are experienced in having instructional control of a student

and incorporate innovative teaching programs from the curriculum that can foster to all children. Some courses developed for students who require visual and auditory communication, while other programs are tended to children who have average/above average intelligence levels and are struggling with academic skill acquisition. Regardless of the nature of a child's disability, special needs schools strive to ensure a child is exposed to a learning environment that works for them, and can limit their disability and improve their learning. Because special needs educators use different teaching approaches that identify a child's social/emotional domains, children are better prepared for an academic world and are provided the opportunity to develop a positive self-concept and high self-esteem where they can visualize themselves as empowered, competent learners.



# special needs schools



	Grades Offered	Religious Affiliation	Entrance Requirements Performed	Tuition	School Fees	One Time Bond/Mem. Fee	Bussing Available	Bussing Fees	Uniform Required	Bursaries Available	Fundraising Required	School Population (elementary, jr. high, sr. high)	Average Expenditure/student	Year Established	Year Constructed	Year Remodeled	Parent Conferences/year	Average Class Size (elementary, jr. high, sr. high)	Students to Teaching Staff	No. Guidance Counselors	No. Athletic Extra-Curricular Activities	No. Other Extra-Curricular Activities	Lunchroom	Cafeteria	Library	No. Instructional Days/school year	No. Teacher Improvement Days/school year	Bachelor	Masters	Doctorate	Band/Music	Computers	Art	Drama	French	Spanish	German	Other Languages	AP Courses	IB Courses	Outdoor Education	Trades	Programming for Learning Disabilities	Programming for ESL	Programming for Giftedness	Students to Computers	SAT Available	% Grade 12 Students Graduate	% Graduates Attending Post-Secondary Institutions	Wheelchair Accessible	Length of School Day (hours)
Calgary Academy	5-12		• •	\$12,160	\$850	• •	•	\$2,500 first child, 2,000 siblings	•	•	•	601	N/A	1994	1994	N/A	4	18,18,18	18:1	1	9	10	•	•	•	176	19	100	25		•	•	•	•	•				•	•			1:1	•	99	88	•	7:00			
Foothills Academy	3-12		•	\$15,300	N/A		•	N/A	•	•	•	289	\$15,300	1979	1990	2012	3	13,13,13	7:1	1	14	18			•	181	10	100	20		•	•	•						•	•			1:1	•	100	96	•	6:45			
Heritage Christian Academy	K-12	•	• •	\$850-3,975	\$100-900			N/A	•	•	•	232,75,100	\$4921	1979	1970	1997	2	20,25,25	9:1	1	8	9	•	•	•	171	6	100	0		•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	N/A	•	100	60	•	6:30			
Janus Academy	K-12		• •	\$11,000	\$0			N/A	•	•	•	37	N/A	1997	1911	N/A	3	7,5,5	1:1	0	0	0	•	•	•	187	3	84	1		•	•							•				5:1	N/A	N/A		6:50				
New Heights Early Learning Services	Pre-K-12			\$12,000	N/A			N/A	•	•	•	45	\$24,000	1999	N/A	N/A	4	9,9,9	26/29	2				•	•	•	186	6	100			•	•	•						•				2:1				7			
Renfrew Educational Services	JK-6		•	\$0-4,000	Varies		•	Varies			•	650	N/A	1974	N/A	N/A	2	12	1:04	15				•	•	178	10	N/A	N/A		•								•	•			N/A	N/A	N/A	•	6:30				
Rundle Academy	4-12		• •	\$13,800-\$16,125	Varies		•	\$3,450	•	•	•	235	N/A	1996	N/A	N/A	3	6,8,10	6:1	1	30	20	•		•	187	9	100	16	1	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	1:1	•	100	80	•	7:00			
The Third Academy	1-12		•	\$11,500	Nominal	•	•	\$2,350	•	•	•	187	\$11,500	1997	1940s	2003	2-4	18,18,18	12:1	10	1	10		•	•	183	5	95	4	1	•	•	•	•					•				3:5:1	•	75	25	•	8			
Westmount Charter School	K-12		• •	\$0	\$155-285	•	•	\$375-750				1130	N/A	1996	1952/1966	2001	2	16,23,21	15:3	4	7	20	•	•	•	175	15	100	15	1	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•					2:3:1	•	99	80	•	6:52	



## Calgary Academy

At Calgary Academy, we design student-centered experiences that nurture a love of learning from Kindergarten to Grade 12. For nearly 40 years we've refined our innovative Academy and Collegiate programs, woven together by our four pillars and guiding principles, to empower unique learners to pursue lives of passion and purpose. Through extraordinarily small class sizes led by expert teachers, our students develop the independence, skills, and confidence to thrive.

When students are struggling, there isn't a moment to spare in providing them the support they need. With their confidence and academic success at stake, it is crucial to understand the root cause of the struggle so we can address the specific skill deficits. Then we can begin to work towards developing social and academic skills to close the achievement gap. Our experienced and specialized teachers tailor the way they teach to the way each student learns. This way, every student's natural strengths are nurtured and built upon as they develop the tools and strategies needed for success.

Remediating learning difficulties is one of our specialties, and our Academy program targets learning gaps in many ways. Accommodations, like voice-to-text and reading software, may be recommended to promote independence around specific task demands. We provide the most effective solutions to ensure every student can succeed.

Our Literacy and Numeracy Specialists use baseline assessment data to develop appropriate supports for each student, working with classroom teachers to provide personalized skill development. During a daily remediation period, students through Grade 9 will receive focused support in their area of greatest academic need. If necessary, students can access one-on-one attention to rapidly remediate specific skill deficits. In Grades 10-12, remediation is provided within the curriculum as students move toward graduation and diploma exams.

**Contact Information:**  
Phone 403-686-6444 ext 223  
(Irina Dart)  
admissions@calgaryacademy.com  
www.calgaryacademy.com  
Facebook: @wearecalgaryacademy

## Rundle Academy

Rundle Academy, part of the Rundle College Society group of schools, is an independent, co-educational, day school for students with diagnosed learning disabilities in grades 4 to 12. Our quiet, residential campus centrally located in the city of Calgary provides a safe and caring learning environment. Rundle Academy is accredited by Alberta Education, a member of Calgary's Independent Schools Athletic Association and affiliated with CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools).

Rundle Academy is a premier academic learning disability schools in Alberta and has earned a reputation for high standards in academic instruction. Students create an Individual Program Plan (IPP), which follows the Alberta Education Curriculum. Our program is unmodified; our faculty provide accommodations to maintain the integrity of the Provincial curriculum. Rundle students are taught strategies that will increase their independence in learning as well as improve their organizational and study skills. Our students understand their individual learning styles and are strong advocates for their requirements for learning success in a post secondary environment.

Small class sizes, ranging from 6-10 students per class, provide individualized instruction and support. Rundle students achieve their full potential and are highly engaged in their learning, resulting in strong academic performance. Rundle teachers are dedicated and enthusiastic with numerous teaching specialists in both academic and complimentary courses. Along with an exceptional athletic program, fine and performing arts, Rundle has a variety of extracurricular activities for students to develop leadership skills, independence, social and team building skills. Rundle has an extensive field trip and travel program that provides opportunities for students to apply their knowledge both in our community and abroad. Rundle's humanitarian program highlights the importance of giving back to society and develops our students as compassionate global citizens.

**Contact Information:**  
Phone (403) 250-2965  
academyadmissions@rundle.ab.ca  
www.rundle.ab.ca

## Renfrew Educational Services

Renfrew Educational Services is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that has been providing educational programming and specialized services to children and their families since 1974. What started as a one-room kindergarten class has transformed into a five-facility organization that accommodates more than 650 children each year.

We offer ECS programming, elementary education (grades 1 – 6) and specialized programs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and motor disabilities. Our programs are founded on the beliefs that all children deserve access to an educational program that addresses their areas for growth, and that learning can be maximized in an inclusive environment where typical and exceptional children learn side-by-side.

As an independent school, we modify the curriculum set out by Alberta Education to meet the special needs of each child. Teachers work with in-house specialists such as Psychologists, Speech-Language, Pathologists Occupational Therapists, Child Development Facilitators, Early Learning Specialist, Physiotherapists, and parents guardians to develop individual program plans for each child. We also encourage family involvement and welcome parents into our classrooms to assist with their child's learning.

Aside from our education programs, we provide an array of assessment and therapy services to children, adolescents and young adults facing all kinds of challenges, and contract our services to independent schools, private ECS operators and school districts across southern Alberta.

Renfrew is different and we're proud of what makes us unique. Our highly-skilled staff are passionate about working with our children and families, and are committed to helping every child succeed. Our small classroom sizes allow for a higher adult-to-child ratio, and our vibrant, specially-designed facilities allow room for play, creativity and personal development. Overall, we want to create exceptional learning opportunities, opening a world of possibilities for every child. We're in the business to "Helping Kids Soar."

**Contact Information:**  
Phone (403) 291-5038  
renfrew@renfreweducation.org  
www.renfreweducation.org



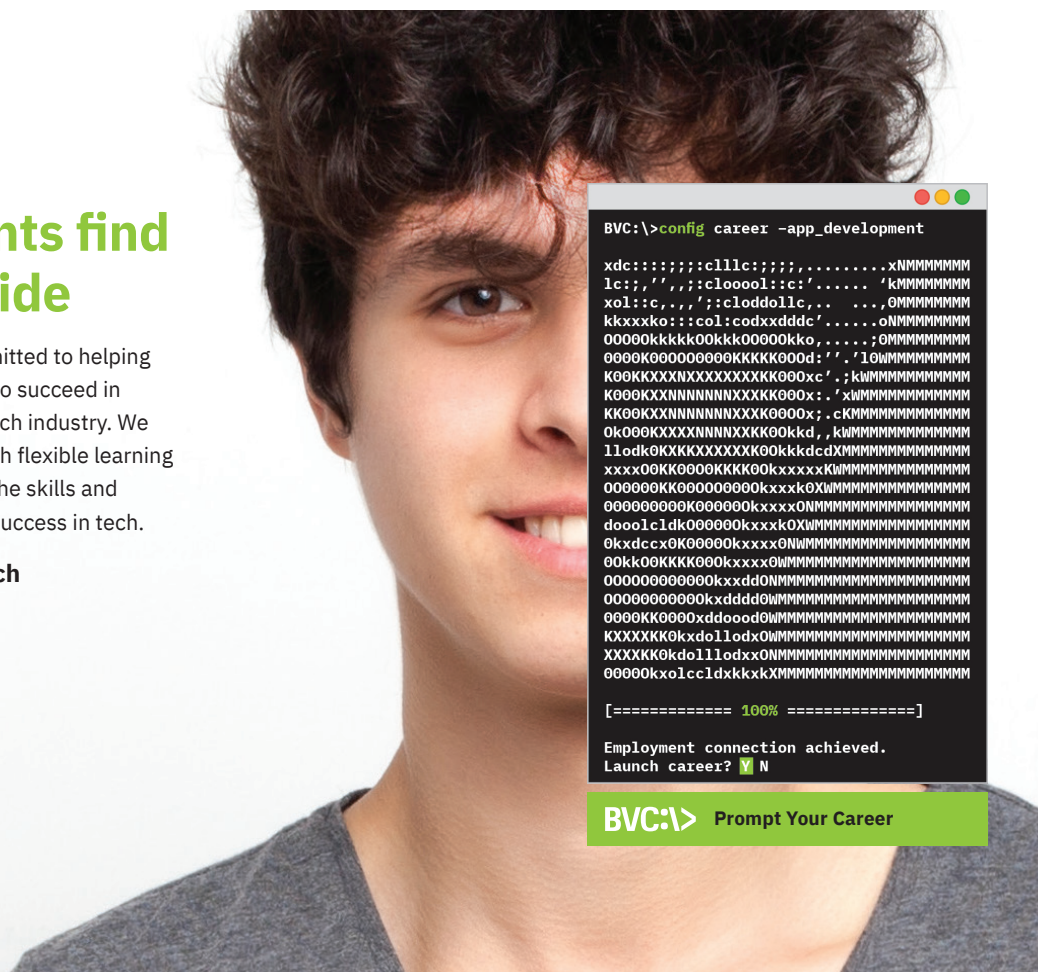
## Other:

- Heritage Christian Academy
- Janus Academy
- New Heights Early Learning Services
- The Third Academy
- Westmount Charter School

## Help students find their tech side

Bow Valley College is committed to helping students acquire the skills to succeed in Canada's rapidly growing tech industry. We offer two year programs with flexible learning options that give students the skills and confidence needed to find success in tech.

[bowvalleycollege.ca/tech](http://bowvalleycollege.ca/tech)







# language-based schools

## Linguistic Diversity

Language [lang-gwij – an orderly means of communication with the use of controversial symbols or by word-of-mouth; a way capable of expressing ideas and concepts.

## A Quick Look at the Past that Brought the Present

During the 1960s, Canada pioneered French immersion programs that were developed to enhance the teaching of native-English-speaking students by educating them to become more proficient in the second language. Today, as French and other language-based schools have emerged and make for an integral part of Alberta, school systems have built to provide parents and students with a wide range of options in language-based schools and programs.

## Currently

In a world that is more and more universal—and in a province like Alberta where multiculturalism flourishes immensely, continuing to introduce diversity to the province's population—the vast growth in Aboriginal population has allowed an increased opportunity for children in Alberta to develop and build connections on a much larger global scale in school.

Acknowledging the rich linguistic and cultural heritage found within Alberta, the province's school system delivers a broad spectrum of second language

(including French, heritage, Aboriginal and international) courses and programs that are tailored to meet the requirements of a student's culture and/or choice in second language learning. The aim is to provide Alberta children with academic experiences starting in kindergarten that are ideally persistent through Grade 12 and support educational and linguistic development in two languages that advance students' understanding of their own and other ways of life.

One of the key standards of second language education is that linguistic and cultural familiarity is a resource—the more a child knows, the better off they will be. Second language learning complements knowledge about a different language and culture while exploiting a child's English language and understanding of the Canadian culture.

To make second language educational lessons clear and logical for students, and to support their learning, teachers—who are highly dexterous in English and the second language—use a broad range of instructional approaches that cover the school district's curriculum.

Promoting global education and intercultural understanding through the interaction of young people, advanced language learning is enriched with exciting opportunities and opens the doors for students to attain high ranks of academic success. Language-based schools are designed to provide a caring environment

customized to meeting the special needs of international as well as Canadian students. Provision for all students can be seen through student-centered learning that immerses children to have a higher level of second language proficiency and become well-rounded independent learners.

While the majority of Canadian language-based schools compromise the focus on French and English, Alberta Learning is committed to supporting second language learning and providing second language learning leads. Today, foreign lingual courses are becoming among the quickest growing, and most useful forms of language programs available in Canadian schools, and students are discovering different parts of the world while gaining a greater perception of the connections between those different parts of the world and one's self.







## language-based schools

	Grades Offered	Religious Affiliation	Entrance Requirements	Placement Assessments Performed	Tuition	School Fees	One Time Bond/Mem. Fee	Bussing Available	Bussing Fees	Uniform Required	Bursaries Available	Fundraising Required	School Population (elementary, jr. high, sr. high)	Average Expenditure/student	Year Established	Year Constructed	Year Remodeled	Parent Conferences/year	Average Class Size (elementary, jr. high, sr. high)	Students to Teaching Staff	No. Guidance Counselors	No. Athletic Extra-Curricular Activities	No. Other Extra-Curricular Activities	Lunchroom	Cafeteria	Library	No. Instructional Days/school year	No. Teacher Improvement Days/school year	Bachelor	Masters	Doctorate	Band/Music	Computers	Art	Drama	French	Spanish	German	Other Languages	AP Courses	IB Courses	Outdoor Education	Trades	Programming for Learning Disabilities	Programming for ESL	Programming for Giftedness	Students to Computers	SAT Available	% Grade 12 Students Graduate	% Graduates Attending Post-Secondary Institutions	Wheelchair Accessible	Length of School Day (hr:min)
Almadina Language Charter Academy	K-9			•	\$0	\$0		•	\$75				99,156	N/A	1996	N/A	N/A	3	21,18	11&:1	0	3	4			•	182	7	100	0	0		•	•	•	•			•						Call		41	N/A	N/A		•	6.30
Calgary French and International School	Pre-K-12		•	•	\$6660-12700	\$470	•	•	\$890-1,640	•	•		775	\$15,821	1969	2004	N/A	2	16,20,20	8:1	3.2	8	22	•	•	•	P-Gr 6:180 Gr7-12:186	P-Gr 6:20 Gr7-12:14	63	35	2	•	•	•	•	•		•		•			Call			2.5:1	•	100	100	•	•	7.00
Equilibrium Senior High & ESL School	10-12		•	•	\$1800-3400	\$120-340			N/A	•			120	\$450-850	1993	1960	2001	3	15	15:1	2	0	10	•			Year-round	3	80	20	0		•	•	•	•	•		•				Call	Call	Call	10:1		80	70	•	•	6.00
Lycée Louis Pasteur	Pre-K-12		•	•	\$12200-14300	\$0	•		N/A	•	•		380		1982	2000	2010	2	18,17,4	8:1	0	8	10	•	•		175	6	100	32	3	•	•	•	•	•						Call		3:1		100	100	•	•	7:00		



# out of area schools



## A Variety of Learning

While the majority of parents seek no farther than the nearest local school as the inherent place to educate their children, there are countless options that can tailor to each individual's preferences, needs and talents.

Out of area schools are schools of, relating to, or being from another town or city and, the majority, are private schools. Often when a child is enrolled in an out of area school parents are charged with associated fees, which allows a variety of educational focuses and makes opportunity available. Out of area schools encompass an array of excellent educational alternatives that fall outside of Calgary and its nearby municipalities. Within these schools students are offered a broad symphony of academics, visual and performing arts, and/or athletics. Through full participation as team players and creative individuals, students explore their unique strengths within a supportive residential community that nurtures scholars of integrity.

In some out of area schools applicants are required to submit school reports, recommendations from up to three teachers and a short essay before receiving an acceptance letter. Other out of area schools interview each applicant for willingness to attend and the ability to participate in the school's outdoor and academic programs.

The reasons a parent may choose a non-local placement for their child can vary and include:

- Change of residence
- Transition from a non-government school
- Medical purposes
- Siblings that are currently enrolled to the school
- Distance
- Travel arrangements
- School's size
- Certain learning programs and courses

- Student interests and needs
- Certain procedures
- Belief/non-belief in school uniforms
- School structure and administration

Regardless of the reason, out of area schools focus on providing all they can to students, and strive to prepare students for future success through a high-quality education. To achieve this, some schools may require students to participate in a three-sided learning experience that consists of academic subjects, outdoor adventure and work experience. Students are provided with exciting challenges as teachers infuse the students with their own thrill for the subject and learning processes.

Some out of area schools educate in small classes where the curriculum is advanced-level and non-semester, while other schools sport modern

classrooms and labs with Internet access. As well, some out of area schools have an outstanding athletic tradition and offer strong programs in other study such as music, drama, dance and visual arts.

Note: The overall number of students an out of area school may enroll is constrained by the availability of classroom space. Because local children are also enrolled within these schools, some may not have room left for non-local enrollments. To prevent disappointment, it would be ideal for parents to ensure whether or not there is placement available in a school prior to applying.









## out of area schools

### Brentwood College

– Where Students Choose To Be

Brentwood provides a modern, West Coast learning experience for global minded students who embrace the values of Grit and Joy.

Brentwood is a progressive, co educational boarding school for Grades 9 to 12, we are located on a spectacular 77-acre oceanfront campus on Vancouver Island, BC. At our school, student choice is a unique part of our culture and a deciding factor in who attends the School. It's why this place is so special. We believe when students truly choose to be here, and they're surrounded by a family of like-minded friends and supporters, they can be anything. This philosophy creates a warm, friendly, and passionate community of students from 38 countries around the world who gain the independence and skills necessary to succeed in the post-secondary world.

Since 1923, we have worked diligently to establish Brentwood as a modern, transformative place of learning and leadership, mirroring the educational experience of a small college rather than a traditional boarding school. Prospective students are drawn to our school's innovative tripartite approach to academics, arts, and athletics, as well as our nurturing boarding environment and strong university preparatory programs. Our unique tripartite scheduling creates unrivalled opportunities for student discovery and growth. Not only is Brentwood a remarkable place to make lifelong friends while gaining a world-class education, Brentwood truly is where students choose to be.

To find out if Brentwood College School is a good fit for your child schedule an interview or tour of the School by contacting [admissions@brentwood.bc.ca](mailto:admissions@brentwood.bc.ca)

To see what the Brentwood experience is all about have a look at our website [www.brentwood.bc.ca](http://www.brentwood.bc.ca) or check out our social media:

Instagram (@brentwoodboarding),  
Facebook (@brentwoodcollegeschool)  
or on Twitter (@brentwoodnews).

+1 (250) 743-5521  
[admissions@brentwood.bc.ca](mailto:admissions@brentwood.bc.ca)  
[www.brentwood.bc.ca](http://www.brentwood.bc.ca)



## where students choose to be

The fact that students choose Brentwood is what makes this place so special. Because when a student truly wants to be here, and they're surrounded by a family of like-minded friends and supporters, we believe they can choose to be . . . anything.



**Find out why students from Alberta choose Brentwood for their high school education**

Co-ed | Boarding | Grades 9-12 | Mill Bay | BC | [www.brentwood.ca](http://www.brentwood.ca) | [admissions@brentwood.ca](mailto:admissions@brentwood.ca)



# School Index

## Quick Reference

To make finding the right school even easier, we've provided you with a complete listing of all advertising educational institutions featured within the pages of this guide. This index will provide you with a quick reference to the write-ups for each school. Survey results for each school are located at the beginning of the section in which the school appears.

Banbury Crossroads	page 32
West Island College	page 35
Clear Water Academy	page 44
Calgary Academy	page 52
Brentwood College	page 63





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TARAMOLINA.COM  
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