

# Education *with* Wonder



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 SACRED HEART  
SCHOOL *of* HALIFAX

Elementary School



Children arrive at school full of questions. We are intentional in our efforts to keep that wild curiosity alive while building a solid foundation of knowledge and competencies to support future learning. In the early grades, there is no firm line between play and work, between fantasy and reality, and it's during this time that we ease children into the rhythm of formal learning while nurturing their natural sense of wonder. Our middle and upper grades offer a robust program, with a balance of academic, social-emotional, physical, and spiritual learning that sets our students up for success in high school and beyond. Regardless of the grade level, we are guided by our Sacred Heart mission, as outlined in our **Five Goals**, our moral compass and a tried and true roadmap.

Read on to find out why our Elementary School would be an excellent choice for you and your child.





1

**Academically, English literacy, mathematics, and French literacy are the foundation** upon which our Elementary School is built. In the early years, it is critical that the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, numeracy, and problem-solving get the attention they deserve. Yet, we also have academic offerings in science, social studies, music, art, physical education, health, and religion at all levels.

2

Why choose between English only or French Immersion when you can have the best of both worlds at Sacred Heart? We offer a unique alternative, one that includes **both English and French language from the start**. Exposure to French starts in the JP and Primary programs with three French classes weekly and is built upon in our Grade 1-2 Enhanced French Program, where French language instruction happens a minimum of one hour per day. As a result, they develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing capabilities in both languages. In Grades 3-6, our students continue with daily French. Once our students reach the Senior School, they're well poised to continue with more advanced French, and onward to full DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) bilingual certification.



3

Our faculty's success is your child's success, and they will leave no stone unturned in their mission to educate, nurture, and support their students. Together **our Elementary School team is the cream of the crop**, one devoted to our students and to our mission. In addition to our highly skilled and truly dedicated teachers, we have a superb Academic Team which consists of our Principals, Vice Principals, and Learning Strategists who lead the academic programming for our School.

**"The main reason we chose Sacred Heart School for our children is its strong academics, but we also had an exhaustive list of expectations and hopes for their schooling - all of which have been met here. This school nurtures and nudges its charges to be the best versions of themselves, and our children have become wise, humble, kind, confident, and articulate. Who could ask for more than that?!"**

- Andrea Hancock

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In our Elementary School, we teach the whole child. In addition to their academic foundation, we ensure their **physical, social, emotional, artistic, and spiritual growth**, because we know children need and deserve balance in their lives. We do this in an environment suffused with love; where hugs are plentiful and community is cherished.





5

Sacred Heart School of Halifax is part of a global network of schools around the world which share a rich heritage that dates back to 1800 when St. Madeleine Sophie Barat founded the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (RSCJ) and created the educational and spiritual philosophy that still guides us today. That heritage gives us **rich traditions unique to us**, including Congé, a surprise day of play when everyone in the School gets to be a kid, and Primes, a monthly Elementary School tradition of formally recognizing student growth and achievement with certificates and medals. Here in Halifax, we've been operating for over 175 years, and our School is filled with a remarkable history and character; one that gives definition to what it means to be a student here. And once a child of the Sacred Heart, always a child of the Sacred Heart — welcomed by and instantly connected to others around the world.

6

In today's fast-moving world where it can sometimes seem like young people spend more time on electronics and screens, it's important to get back to the basics of civility. Here we devote time to teaching **responsibility, kindness, and gratitude** and we spend time on making sure our students look people in the eye, hold the door open for one another, say please and thank you, and respect for all. These common courtesies may seem trite, but we believe they are fundamental to developing well-rounded and grounded young people.





7

If you haven't been to one of our Elementary School musicals, prepare to be blown away! Our musicals are legendary, and for good reason - our skilled musical director and her team know how to bring out the best in our students who rehearse for each year's production with feverish devotion. It's a true community endeavour, with volunteer parents and grandparents working on set pieces, props, costumes, makeup, and everything else that goes into a quality production. And, the musical is just one of **many performing arts opportunities** students have in our school, there's also a beginner band, choir, the annual variety show, and the much-loved Christmas Concert. Of course, we also offer music and art as part of our curriculum and our students are encouraged to cultivate an appreciation for the arts in their daily life.

8

Research has proven over and over again that **play is an important part of learning**, particularly when children are provided with a safe environment that allows them to take age-appropriate risks that foster a sense of independence. We place an especially high value on outdoor play and ensure our three daily recesses are outdoors except in the very worst weather. Our exceptional play structure (designed with input from our own students), along with outdoor game and play spaces, makes our campus particularly appealing.





9

Yes, we are a Catholic independent school, but one that welcomes people of all faiths. Families chose us because they value the spiritual dimension of our School and our attention to fostering **love, kindness, respect, and forgiveness**. Through our Religion Program, our students explore their relationship to God, to self, to others, and to all creation. Throughout the school year, students will learn about scripture and liturgical seasons and will participate in assemblies, masses, and celebrations that honour founding members of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Our Elementary School students enjoy weekly liturgical singing practices to learn the songs that will be sung at upcoming celebrations, and these songs reinforce the themes of love, respect, generosity, and forgiveness.

10

We offer a myriad of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, including robotics, Battle of the Books, intramural sports, choir, Beginner Band, Craft Club, karate, yoga, Running Club, and chess just to name a few. These opportunities offer students the opportunity to **come together over shared interests** which helps with social-emotional development, and of course with having fun.





Call us: 902-422-4459

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