

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

Middle School Transition Handbook



District Mission Statement

Our schools are gospel centered communities of hope, fostering a Catholic Christian value system within a pluralistic society.

School Vision Statement

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School is a Christ centered learning environment whose members are called to Be Loving, Be Joyful, Be Humble and Be Forgiving.

Core Belief Statements

We are committed to providing a Catholic centered learning environment that nourishes an active spiritual practice and fosters a sense of community.

We believe student well being comes above all else, by advocating on their behalf and providing a safe and caring environment where respect for people and property are valued.

We believe in providing an authentic learning environment, built on innovation and collaboration.

We believe in the value of a strong effective team who listens, celebrates and supports one another by creating a welcoming and inviting atmosphere.

We believe in the value of lifelong, innovative, engaging and authentic learning opportunities that enhance the education of the whole child.

We believe in the value of high expectations and consistency by setting high goals and upholding agreed upon standard practices.

School Contacts

Mr. Gary Gylander	Principal
Mr. Stefan Labrecque	Vice Principal
Mrs. Dana Pikkert	Vice Principal

Mr. Blair Christensen	Counsellor
Mrs. Mary Kate Kelly	Counsellor

School Phone: 403-314-1449 (Attendance Line 403-314-1449 Ext 1)

School Website: <http://www.stfrancisschool.ca>

PowerSchool Parent Link: <https://powerschool.rdcrs.ca/public/home.html>

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School: Introduction

The staff and students of St. Francis of Assisi Middle School would like to welcome you to our school. We are very proud of our school, and are confident you will enjoy your time at St. Francis. The purpose of this handbook is to help answer questions regarding the transition to St. Francis of Assisi Middle School and ease the uncertainty students may feel in transitioning from elementary.

The middle school years are recognized as an important time when students develop their self image and center their attitudes towards learning. Relationship building can play a large role in this process and we aim to create learning experiences that will further students' spiritual, social and moral development while providing academic excellence. The middle school years span sixth to ninth grades and represent the passage from childhood into young adulthood.

Programs

★ Core Classes

We offer all of the core classes mandated by the Alberta Education Program of Studies. Our school operates on a six day timetable as opposed to the week schedule usually found in elementary. Our reporting periods are on the trimester system. Students in Grade 6 will study Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math, Religion, Physical Education (P.E.), Health, and Career and Life Skills classes.

★ Career and Life Skills

These are classes that are an extension of core classes, but are less structured. Students in Grade 6 will take six different career and life skills classes throughout the year. Students will have two career and life skills classes per trimester, one class on days 1, 3, 5 and one class on days 2, 4, 6.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
T1 Band T2 STEM T3 Art	T1 Foods T2 Shop T3 Drama	T1 Band T2 STEM T3 Art	T1 Foods T2 Shop T3 Drama	T1 Band T2 STEM T3 Art	T1 Foods T2 Shop T3 Drama

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Some examples of career and life skills classes offered in Grade 6 include: Foods, Drama, Art, Design Studies, French and STEM. **Students in Grade 6 are required to receive a prescribed amount of Fine Arts instruction as per Alberta Education guidelines.** As such, all Grade 6 students will be required to take one mandatory Band course during one of the terms. These will be scheduled for the students.

★ *T.A.G. (Teacher Advisory Group)/Family Groupings*

Each student will be assigned to a TAG. A student's TAG is their homeroom class that they will spend a majority of their school day with. The **TAG teacher is also the first line of contact for parents.** Students also will be assigned to a **Family Grouping** composed of students from Grades 6-9. Students will meet in these Family Groupings on the last Monday of every month as well as for activities, church celebrations, and assemblies to create and enhance community throughout our building.

★ *Lunch Hour*

Students in Grades 6 and 7 eat lunch at a different time from the Grade 8 and 9 students. There are microwaves available for students to use as well as a full service hot lunch cafeteria (<https://stf.hotlunches.net>), drink and snack vending machines for students to select nutritious food. St. Francis of Assisi is a closed campus. All students are to remain at school over the lunch break. If the parent wishes the student to go home daily for lunch, the school office must have written parental permission. St. Francis is striving to be a peanut safe school. Students are asked to refrain from bringing any peanut products to school.

★ *Technology*

The school has technology banks in our breakout areas with many iMac and Windows desktop computers. The school has many class sets of laptops, iPads, Chromebooks and a variety of other Maker technology. All students at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School complete Digital Citizenship modules throughout the school year which allow them to bring a personal device to school and connect to the school wireless network to enhance their learning. All students also have access to their own Google Apps for Education account which includes 30 GB of email and cloud storage which can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

★ *Cell Phones*

Students are not allowed out of class to answer calls except in emergency situations. Cell phones are to be turned off in the school and stored in student's lockers during class time. Students can be on their devices during lunch recess. They are not to use their cell phones to communicate with parents, friends, etc as this should be done through the school phones. Students should not be walking through the hallways on

their devices or listening to music. This can be done only in the classrooms with teacher permission.

★ *Learning Commons*

All students will start the year off with a temporary ID card. Once their school photos have been taken they will be given their permanent picture ID card. Students need their ID card to check out materials from the learning commons. Students can ask for a replacement ID Card if lost at the school office. If a book/textbook is lost or damaged beyond repair, a replacement cost will incur. The learning commons is open to students before school and at lunch.

★ *Extra-Curricular Activities*

Middle school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities for students to further their educational experience. St. Francis offers Cross-Country Running, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Track and Field, Drama Production, Student Leadership, Wellness Champions, Dungeons and Dragons Club and others. Students are highly encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities as it provides further opportunities to explore interest areas and helps them become part of the school culture making their time at St. Francis more rewarding.

★ *St. Francis of Assisi Middle School Gym Strip*

Students have the opportunity to purchase a St. Francis gym strip for Phys. Ed. T-shirts and gym shorts are available through the online store on our webpage. If students choose to bring their own gym strip it must meet dress code requirements.

★ *Positive Student Recognition Program - #thewayofthewolf*

At St. Francis, we have started a new program to positively recognize our students regularly using the four pillars that are explained on the next page. Teachers have the opportunity to regularly recognize students for the great things that they are doing in our school community. Students will also have the opportunity to recognize each other for the awesome things that they do for one another. There are a number of ways that students can be recognized. It could be as simple as receiving a card from your teacher with a brief explanation of why you received it or students can be recognized in front of their entire class or the whole school with the chance of winning one of the many prizes that we have.



Four Pillars of St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School is a Christ centered learning environment whose members are called to Be Loving, Be Joyful, Be Humble and Be Forgiving. These four pillars are the foundation we build upon as our students transition throughout our school and venture into high school. We ask that students strive to...

Be Loving

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. - John 15:12

As Catholic Christians we are called to be loving in our actions, in our thoughts and in our words. For our students, this can be demonstrated in how they treat and speak to one another in the hallways, in the classrooms and during recess. Students should first and foremost always love one another! Everything we do should be loving, just as God loves us unconditionally, we too should show our unconditional love to our community.

Be Joyful

For the joy of the Lord is your strength. - 1 Nehemiah 8:10b

Be Joyful always, this is God's will for us. As a person in Christ, we can choose to rejoice in all that He is for us, all that He has done for us and all that He still has planned for us. For our students, this comes from making choices that are pleasing to God and bring joy to others. We can experience joy through serving others, through prayer, listening to and reflecting on God's word. When we choose to do what is right and move closer to God through our actions and words we start to experience Joy and spread Joy to others!

Be Humble

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. - James 4:6

As Christians we are not to outwardly show our pride in our actions and words we are to only seek to please God and no one else. Christ asks us to be of the mindset that our opinions and

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thoughts are no better than anyone else's. We should not boast about our own accomplishments and abilities. We are to serve God and God alone. For students, this can be demonstrated by using our talents and capabilities to help others, to encourage each other and by appreciating diversity.

Be Forgiving

Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. - Ephesians 4:26

As Christians we are called to be Forgiving people! It is only through God that forgiveness can be achieved. Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a choice. It is choosing not to let hatred and resentment live in your heart and this can only happen by turning to God for help. For our students, this can be demonstrated through developing empathy and choosing to forgive the wrong doings they may encounter on a day to day basis and leaving judgement to God and God alone.

St. Francis of Assisi School Council

Get involved, make a difference, have fun!

Welcome to St. Francis of Assisi! We are excited to get to know you within our school community. Every act of parental involvement, whether big or small, reinforces to your child that they are valued, and allows you to stay connected to your child's education.

School Council, in collaboration with the Principal, Staff and the Community help to enhance learning opportunities, through various activities for the benefit of the students. We provide a fun forum to discuss fundraising ideas, school wide events and your student's education.

With new faces comes new ideas, please join us!

Jenny Nelson
School Council Chair



Comparison of Elementary and Middle School

Elementary	Middle School
Few teachers each day	More teachers each day
Few sports teams	Many after school sports teams and the Sports Development Program
Bring own lunch	Cafeteria where you can buy hot lunch
No vending machine	Vending machine and drink machine used at lunchtime and after school
Generally no locks on lockers	Lockers with locks
Recess breaks each day	Short breaks between classes, no morning or afternoon recess Students do get lunch recess
Teachers move to your class	Students move to the teacher's class
Shorter classes	Longer classes
With the same students all day	With different students during CLS and PE classes
No choice of any classes	Students pick CLS classes
Smaller groups to choose friends from	Many new students from different schools so you can choose the group of friends you want to be a part of.

★ Academic Reporting and Communication

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School is striving to be environmentally friendly. All academic reporting takes place online through the PowerSchool portal. The portal can be accessed via the school website. Communication with the school can be done through the web page, email or telephone.

Our web page (<https://www.stfranciisschool.ca/>) contains all important information related to our school. The web page contains all the latest updates and information items.

Be sure to follow our social media sites to share in all the events happening at our school.

Twitter: @STFWolves

Facebook: STFWolves

Instagram: stfwolves1

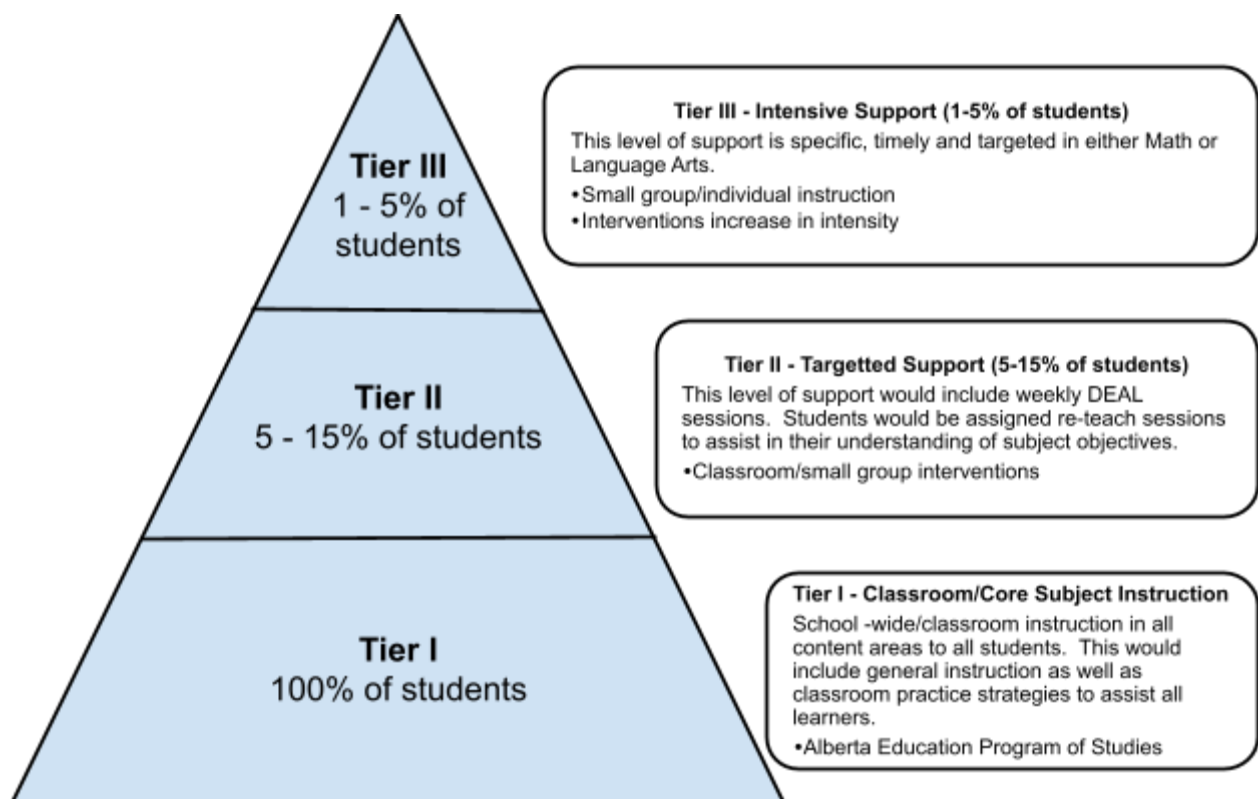


DEAL AT A GLANCE

At St. Francis we have an embedded time that further assists in supporting student learning...DEAL (Drop Everything And Learn). DEAL follows the framework of Response to Intervention. The Response To Intervention (RTI) process is an approach to providing interventions to struggling students at increasing levels of intensity. It involves assessment, high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need, frequent progress monitoring, and the use of student work to make educational decisions.

Early in the year, staff start looking at a student's skills in reading, writing and math. Teachers provide classroom instruction and enhanced targeted teaching—called interventions—to help students who require additional support to achieve success. A big part of the RTI process involves closely monitoring student progress. That way we can see which students need more academic support.

The graphic below summarizes the levels of support offered at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School.



At St. Francis, DEAL occurs twice weekly. It occurs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Data has shown that our DEAL program has increased student achievement and reduced stress for students. Students sign up for DEAL sessions every Monday in their TAG class.

Grade 6 Student Comments

- ❖ “The school is awesome and really nice.”
- ❖ “You get to meet a lot of new people.”
- ❖ “Practice studying, because there are more tests.”
- ❖ “The food from the cafeteria is awesome, and there is always a new menu.”
- ❖ “Don’t worry, you will get used to it fast.”
- ❖ “Learn to stay organized, it will be helpful.”
- ❖ “Stay calm, you’ll be just fine.”
- ❖ “There are lots of new things to learn and try.”
- ❖ “The teachers are nice and really helpful.”
- ❖ “You get to learn lots.”
- ❖ “The sports teams are awesome.”
- ❖ “Everyone is really helpful.”
- ❖ “Be nice and friendly to everyone.”
- ❖ “DEAL is really cool because you can get extra help with your work.”
- ❖ “You will make lots of nice friends that will help you.”
- ❖ “The option classes are so cool and you get to try different ones.”
- ❖ “It’s not as scary as you may think, it’s actually really fun.”



Grade 6 Sample Timetable

**TAG 6-1
Room 2017
Timetable 2020-2021**

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
Block 1 M,W,F 8:52-9:46 Tue/Th 8:52-9:40	ELA Quick Rm 2017	Math Jansen Rm 2017	Math Jansen Rm 2017	Religion Toeckes Rm 2017	Phys Ed Gym	Social Peters Rm 2017
Block 2 M,W,F 9:48-10:42 Tue/Th 9:41-10:29	Religion Toeckes Rm 2017	Science Jansen Rm 2017	Religion Toeckes Rm 2017	Phys Ed Gym	Math Jansen Rm 2017	Phys Ed Gym
Block DH Tue/Th 10:30-11:07						
Block 3 M,W,F 10:44-11:38 Tue/Th 11:08-11:56	Social Peters Rm 2017	Social Peters Rm 2017	Social Peters Rm 2017	ELA Quick Rm 2017	Science Jansen Rm 2017	ELA (LW) Quick Rm 2017
LUNCH						
Block 4 M,W,F 12:40-1:34 Tue/Th 12:58-1:46	Phys Ed Gym	Science Jansen Rm 2017	Science Jansen Rm 2017	Social Peters Rm 2017	Math Jansen Rm 2017	Math Jansen Rm 2017
Block 5 M,W,F 1:36-2:30 Tue/Th 1:48-2:36	ELA Quick Rm 2017	ELA Quick Rm 2017	ELA Quick Rm 2017	Math Jansen Rm 2017	ELA Quick Rm 2017	Science Jansen Rm 2017
Block 6 M,W,F 2:32-3:25 Tue/Th 2:38-3:25	CLS A	CLS B	CLS A	CLS B	CLS A	CLS B

LUNCH
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:41 - 12:41
Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 - 1:00

*Bell times on this sample timetable may change between now and the beginning of the school year. Please check the school website for up-to-date bell times.

GROUP 2 ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • INTERIOR DESIGN

RED DEER CATHOLIC REGIONAL DIVISION #39

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

321 LINDSAY AVE. RED DEER, AB

FLOOR PLAN 1

DATE: APR. 2016

DRAWN BY: JAK

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

PLT. NO.

COOD.

SHEET: 2/4

MAIN FLOOR

GROUP 2 ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • INTERIOR DESIGN

RED DEER CATHOLIC REGIONAL DIVISION #39

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

321 LINDSAY AVE. RED DEER, AB

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DATE: APR, 2018	PLT 10r
DRAWN BY: JMK	CODE
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"	SHEET: 2/4

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