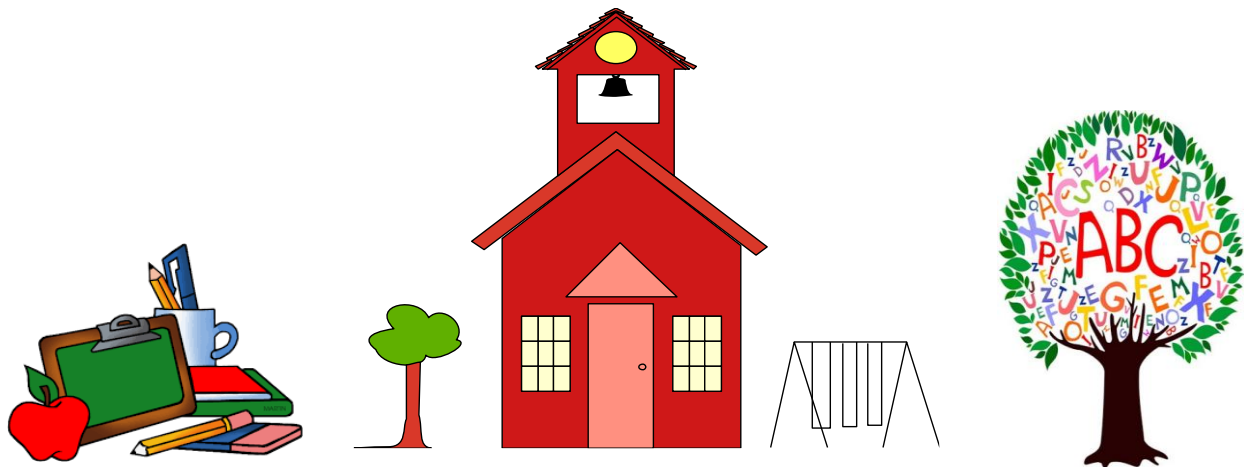


Bienvenue à la maternelle!

Welcome to Kindergarten!



**Information Booklet
École St. Matthew School
2026-2027**

**CARRIE MUENCH - Principal
MURRAY ST.AMAND - Vice-Principal
JULIE TOLMIE - Office Coordinator
JEANNETTE ISHAK-STEFO – Secretary**

SCHOOL HOURS

8:55 am: FIRST BELL

9:00 am – CLASSES BEGIN

10:15-10:30 am - RECESS (grades K to 3)

10:30 - 10:45 am - RECESS (grades 4 to 8)

12:00 - 12:45 pm: LUNCH BREAK

12:45 pm CLASSES RESUME

2:00-2:15 pm RECESS (grades K to 3)

2:15 - 2:30 pm: RECESS (grades 4 to 8)

3:30 pm DISMISSAL



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to École St. Matthew School!

As parents and guardians of a child entering Kindergarten, you may have many questions. The intent of this handbook is to attempt to answer some of these questions and to help you prepare your child for the beginning of a positive school experience.

The staff at École St. Matthew School strive to provide a Christian atmosphere of love, cooperation and security in which students are given the opportunity to grow in their faith, in their academic work, and in their social, emotional and physical development.

Parents are an integral part of a child's journey as a learner. We look forward to working with you to make this a most enjoyable and successful educational opportunity for your child.



Carrie Muench
Principal

KINDERGARTEN - A PERSPECTIVE

The kindergarten experience is an extremely important time in a child's growth and development. Planning this program for the children requires the consideration of many factors:

- an understanding of child growth and development
- a sensitive awareness of individual differences
- a knowledge of learning activities which are age appropriate
- the establishment of objectives that will help each child develop his/her abilities

The Kindergarten program provides many opportunities for children to develop socially. Your child will continue the learning process already begun at home since birth. Learning to share, cooperate, be considerate toward others, follow directions, take care of belongings and develop new skills, coupled with being separated from parents for a large portion of the day, are but a few of the many challenges your child will face in Kindergarten.

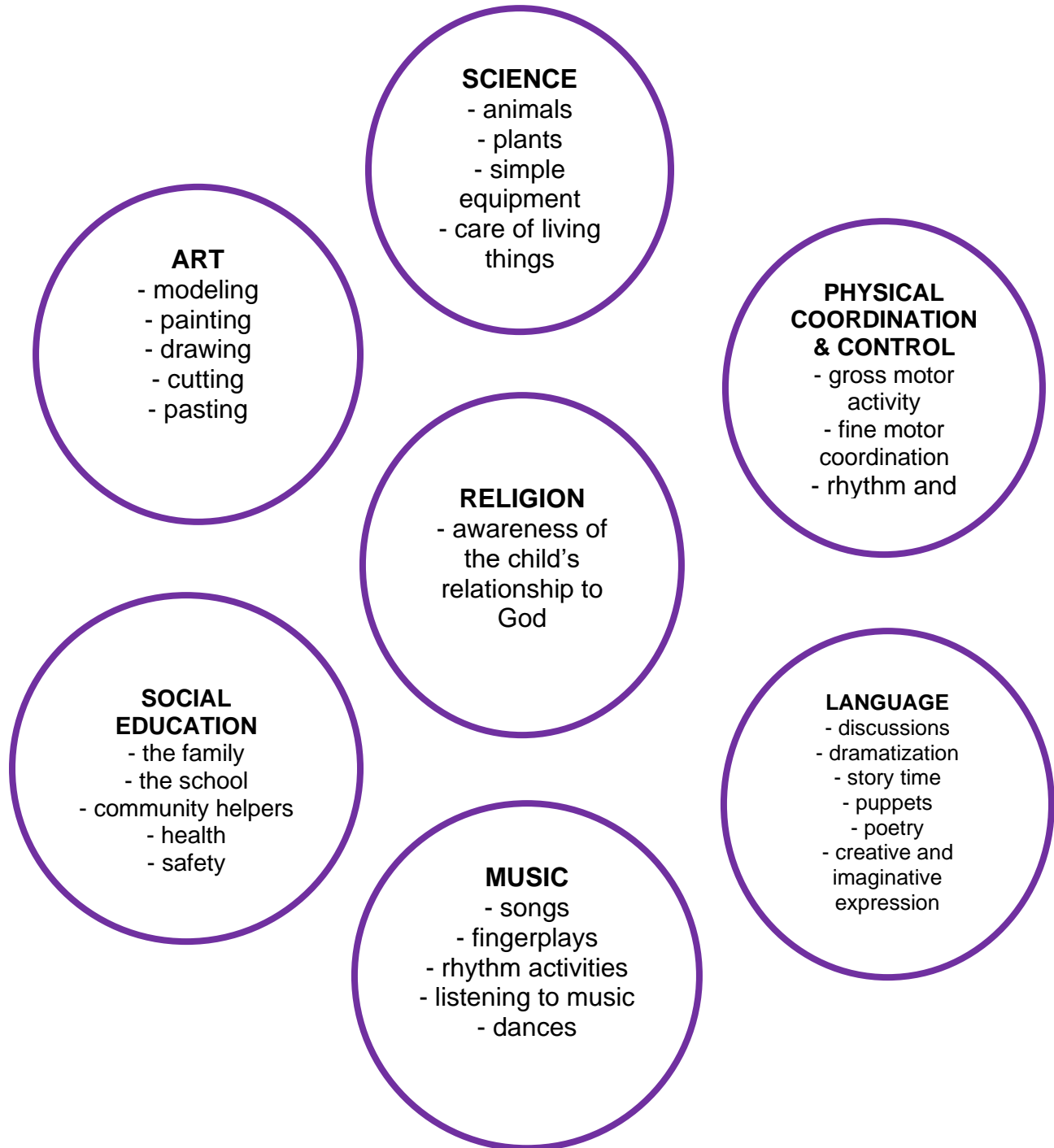
By living in a French language environment throughout the day, your child will slowly begin to understand what is being said, to repeat words and phrases, and to express certain basic sentences. Comprehension of this second language is enhanced through the use of pictures, gestures, songs and stories related to the vocabulary and concepts being taught. Connections are constantly being made to previous experiences in the child's life.

The Kindergarten program also provides for the basic needs of the child:

- to gain acceptance and approval
- to obtain affection
- to have a sense of purpose (to help the child make healthy choices)
- to have a feeling of accomplishment and personal worth

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The following diagram outlines our Kindergarten program. It is with this program that we will answer the needs of your child through the following areas of curriculum



WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD LEARN IN KINDERGARTEN?

Along with acquiring a second language, your child will learn:

- to experience the satisfaction of learning new skills and ideas
- to get along with different adults
- to work and play with other children
- to share games, ideas and experiences
- to express himself/herself in words, drawings, music and play
- to care for himself/herself and personal belongings
- to look at books and to handle them with care
- to listen
- to follow directions
- to print capital and small letters
- to learn the alphabet sounds in French
- to recognize numbers and to understand simple number concepts
- to be curious about the world in which they live
- to develop good work habits

SCHOOL READINESS

Every child is unique. Each differs from others in ability to learn, in speed of learning, and in the age at which specific ideas are learned. You can help your child be more fully prepared for Kindergarten by helping them with the following skills:

- to recognize their printed name
- to print their name
- to know their last name
- to know their address and phone number
- to know their birthday
- to follow simple directions
- to listen quietly to stories
- to take care of personal property
- to care about personal cleanliness
- to eat their food properly and quietly in one place
- to take turns
- to let others speak without interrupting
- to respect the property of others
- to play cooperatively with others
- to recognize safety hazards for themselves and others

HOME & SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

1. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

THE TEACHER IS RESPONSIBLE:

- to plan and organize activities to suit the needs of the class
- to give assistance, encouragement and guidance
- to help with a variety of on-going activities
- to structure activities which allow the child to make discoveries
- to create an atmosphere in which learning takes place
- to inform parents about the academic and social progress of their child through interviews in November and March and progress reports given in March and June

PARENTS ARE ASKED:

- to inform the school before **8:55 AM** if their child will be late or absent, by using **EDSBY** and to report all other absences with **EDSBY**.
- to provide information regarding their child's health and/or other concerns
- to always send two nutritious snacks and a lunch
- to help their child learn personal information (i.e. first and last name, address, phone number and birthday)
- to assist, when possible, with activities such as field trips or excursions
- to clearly label all their child's clothing and personal belongings, such as shoes, lunch bags, backpack, etc.
- to help their child with lessons, since repetition is an important part of learning

2. EDSBY

EDSBY is used to report absences, for correspondence with your child's teacher, to book 3 Way Conferences, for school news, and to view your child's report cards. Please sign up as soon as you receive your invitation. Families will receive an invitation to join **EDSBY** at the beginning of the school year

2. TRANSPORTATION

École St. Matthew School has a contract with Hertz Northern Bus to provide transportation to and from school. We ask for your cooperation and patience as the details of bus routes are worked out at the beginning of the year. You are responsible for your child's transportation to school until Hertz Northern Bus notifies you. The bus driver will contact you prior to the beginning of the school year to discuss pick up and drop off times. If you have any questions, please contact Hertz Northern Bus: (306)374-5161.

2. STUDENT ABSENCES

At École St. Matthew School, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all of our students arrive safely at school each day.

The student absence reporting system called **EDSBY**, will let you use a mobile app or a website to report an absence in advance. This system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, making it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

In addition, we will use the **EDSBY** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will be able to rapidly contact you by text message, email, mobile app push notification, to obtain a reason for the absence.

When to enter an absence on **EDSBY**:

- if your child is going to be absent from school
- if your child is going to be late
- if your child if going to be picked up early

3. DROP OFF & PICK UP TIMES

- Drop off begins at **8:40am**. Please note there is no supervision before this time.
- Dismissal is at **3:30pm** and there is no supervision available after dismissal.
- If your child needs to arrive before **8:40am** or stay past **3:30pm**, they must be enrolled in the **YMCA Before and After School program**.

4. NEWS

School News is shared on **EDSBY** in the news river, the monthly newsletter, and in the **EDSBY** calendar.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS AND 3 WAY CONFERENCES

Progress Reports for Kindergarten will be sent home in March and June. Parent-teacher - student conferences will take place in November and March. Feel free to contact the teacher anytime during the school year if you have concerns regarding your child. The **EDSBY** conference scheduler will open for bookings two weeks prior to the 3 Way Conferences.

6. CLOTHING

Children should have clothing they can manipulate themselves. Dress should be

simple, comfortable and washable. A change of clothes should be kept at school in a Ziploc bag. underwear, pants, shirt, 2 pairs of socks. Students will play outdoors on most days and should be dressed appropriately. Please label all of your child's outerwear (outdoor shoes, boots, winter boots, coats, snow pants, toques, mittens and scarves).

7. ILLNESS

Children showing signs of possible illness such as sore throat, chills, skin rash, coughing, fever, or vomiting should be kept at home. If a child suddenly feels ill at school, parents will be contacted and asked to take their child home. Parents should notify the school if their child has come into contact or contracted a communicable disease or illness.

8. FUN LUNCH AND BAKE SALE

Once a month, there will be one Fun Lunch that will alternate between the Monday - Wednesday class and Tuesday - Thursday classes. Fun lunches are ordered and paid for through the following website www.healthyhunger.ca. Go to Healthy Hunger, create an account, add your child and select their school and class. You will receive a reminder email from Healthy Hunger when there is a scheduled fun lunch to order.

A bake sale will also be held during Fun Lunches, with two classrooms providing the home baked items. As we are a nut and peanut aware school, all baking must be completely free of nut and peanut products. If store bought items are donated, the packaging must clearly state "**nut and peanut free**", otherwise, the baking will not be sold.

Baking is sold for \$1 each with leftovers being sold the following day for 50¢ each.

9. YMCA – BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We are pleased to offer a 'Before and After School' program which is run by the YMCA. This program assists in bridging care for your children from **7:30am to 8:55am** and **3:30pm to 6:00pm**, specifically for students up to the age of 12. Activities are varied and include crafts and games. Call the YMCA at 306-652-7525 ext: 242 for more information or check out YMCA website and select Before and After School Care: <https://ymcasaskatoon.org/child-care/>

10. LATE ARRIVALS

Students arriving to school late must arrive via the front doors of the school and check in at the office to pick up a late slip.

11. QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

- Q. **What is the best way to get in touch with the teacher if the need should arise?**
- A. Send a message through **EDSBY**, send an email or phone the school at (306) 659-7410. Phone calls are not put through to classrooms during instructional time.
- Q. **What steps are taken if my child becomes sick while at school?**
- A. The school attempts to first contact the parents/guardians on their cell, land line or at work; then the child's emergency contact person. The child can lie down in the first aid room until someone can come and get them. If we are unable to contact someone and the child must go to the hospital, a teacher or staff member will stay with the child until someone arrives.
- Q. **If I am planning to take my child out of school for part of the day or for an extended vacation, who should I contact?**
- A. Please enter all of your child's absences in **EDSBY**. If your child will only be late, put in an absence for the time they will be away.
- Q. **If I need to change the end of the day routine for my child, who should I notify?**
- A. If you are changing your child's regular end of day routine, **send a note or an EDSBY message to the teacher and enter an absence in EDSBY if leaving early**. If changes occur during the school day, please **call the office at (306) 659-7410**.
- Q. **What is the lunchtime routine?**
- A. Lunch begins at 12:00pm. kindergarten students go out to play at the start of lunchtime, then they come inside to eat in their classroom at 12:25pm.
- Q. **Are the children supervised at lunch time?**
- A. Yes. There is supervision in the hallways while the children have their lunch. Grade 8 lunch buddies are assigned to help in the classroom during this time.
- Q. **Are parents expected to volunteer their time in kindergarten?**
- A. Yes. Help is always needed to:
- supervise students during centers while the teacher works one on one
 - help with some classroom duties (photocopying, colouring, cutting, etc)
 - chaperone field trips
 - wash toys at the end of the year
 - help with some classroom activities (i.e. cooking, art)
- Q. **Are there routine visits to the school by health personnel?**
- A. Yes, regular visits are made by a public health nurse, a speech therapist, as well as a social worker.