



OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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JUNIOR HIGH OPTION INFORMATION BOOKLET 2023-2024

Look Inside For:

- Grade 7 to 9 Option Information
- Summary of the Grade 7 to 9 Option Courses (Per Semester and Quarter)
- CTR Calendar 23-24
- Assurance Result

According to our Annual Education Results Report

- Faith Insight: stakeholders are very satisfied with the religious celebrations offered at OLS; Staff satisfaction rate was 100%.
- OLS outperformed the province by 18.5% and 15.4% respectively on Provincial Achievement Test results in the areas of acceptable level of achievement and level of excellence.
- OLS outperformed the province by 18.1% and 12.1% respectively on Diploma results in the areas of acceptable level of achievement and level of excellence.
- OLS outperformed the province by 9.9% in the area of citizenship. Faith, stewardship, communication, and a rise in awareness about racism and discrimination are contributing factors to the success of this measure.

**“Direct Your Children
Onto The Right Path, And
When They Are Older,
They Will Not Leave It”.**

- Proverbs 22:6

 **Christ The Redeemer
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Grade 7 – 9 Option Information

Junior Alternative Games

Alternative Games is an active class that focuses on participating in games from around the globe. This course will be held both indoors (gym/atrium/class) as well as outdoors (field, paths and potential field trips). Students will be engaged in games, sports and activities that challenge them physically and mentally while providing opportunities to develop their teamwork and collaboration skills. Not your typical gym class! The focus is on movement appreciation and exposure.

Junior Art – Drawing

In this option, you will have the opportunity to create and explore using a variety of mediums to develop your skills and expand your creativity. Working independently and collaboratively, we will learn about the different elements of art, and how to apply them to communicate thoughts and ideas in new ways and to create unique masterpieces!

Junior Art – Paint and Sculpting

Time to get messy- because sometimes life can be messy. This course is an introduction to painting and sculpture. Get ready to use colour, clay and non-traditional art supplies to create! Students will work independently as well as in artistic teams to discuss and produce art which represents student's perspectives, dreams and questions.

Junior Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

Proficiency in data analysis, data visualization, and computational thinking has become crucial. This course aims to equip students with the essential skills in this area. Students will program in Python, gain an understanding of artificial intelligence tools, learn to design, train, and deploy their own AI systems, and discuss issues and ethics related to data and AI. By the end of this course, students will be equipped to tackle real-world data challenges.

Artificial Intelligence and Data Science are currently becoming an integral part of society. This course serves as an introduction to text-based coding in python at a developmentally appropriate stage to meet future curricular needs in the province of Alberta. It builds upon a strong foundation of block coding currently being implemented in K-6 curricular reform.

Junior Band – Intermediate

Students are welcome to take this option regardless of their previous band and music experience. Students work to develop their individual playing skills, as well as continuing the theoretical study of music. Performances, clinics and band trips are a part of this program. Instruments can be rented through Long and McQuade or the school.

Junior Band – Advanced

Students **MUST** have taken two years of band (**Grade 6 Band and Jr. 7 Band**) before joining this option. Students work to develop their individual playing skills, as well as continuing the theoretical study of music. Performances, clinics and band trips are a part of this program. Instruments can be rented through Long and McQuade or the school.

Junior Creative Writing

Do you love to write? Do you want to get better at writing? Do you wish you had freedom to write what you want to write? If yes, then consider taking Jr. Creative Writing. This course will cover an introductory overview of all three of the main genres of creative writing (Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Non-Fiction) while also allowing students to focus on one genre of their choice. The format will follow a Writer's Workshop style of teaching with mini-lessons, quick writes, and a Writers Portfolio. Students are given time to write freely, exploring their creative genius! Creative Writing teaches the strategies and students are the creative directors. If you like to write or want to get better at writing this is the "write" course!

Junior Construction - Level 1 - Beginner

Students will learn how to safely use the machines in the construction and build some basic projects such as pens, tea-light candles and cutting boards. This is a pre-requisite for Jr. Construction Level 2.

Junior Construction - Level 2 - Intermediate

Students will learn how to safely use various types of joinery techniques to build some basic projects such as shelves, picture frames and coat racks. Students will use pocket hole joints, miter joints, dado joints, dovetail joints, biscuit joints to build projects.



Grade 7 – 9 Option Information

Junior Dance

Throughout this course, we will explore movement, rhythm, and music while developing student interest through a quarter of discovery and fun. Whether you are an experienced dancer or new to dance you will be challenged and find success in a playful and fun environment moving to music. Focusing on technique, body control and choreography, we will explore different types of dances and dance history. This course is for everyone—no previous dance experience needed. Student's participation is required for every class.

Junior Drama

Students will work on their dramatic skills through games and improvisation. Students will have the chance to perform for a variety of audiences. This is one class where being overdramatic is not a problem!

Junior Elite Athletics

The overall goal of this course is to enhance student athletic performance. Major topics of study include athletic (fitness) training, sport psychology, & nutrition. Students apply basic training and movement principles to health-related and performance-related components of fitness training. Students create fitness activities and develop a basic individual fitness plan to achieve goals for health-related and performance-related components.

Junior Entrepreneurial Bootcamp

Entrepreneurial Bootcamp gives students the opportunity to identify, compare and assess a variety of venture opportunities and ideas in small groups. A business model canvas will be introduced and used as a template for organizing innovative business opportunities.

Entrepreneurial skills are highly valuable in workplaces. Many large corporations are now looking for their staff to have competency in business acumen, entrepreneurship, resiliency, and creativity. This information was clearly seen in "Inspiring Education: A dialogue with Albertans." Albertans told us that students in the K-12 systems needed real work skills categorized as Engaged Thinkers, Ethical Citizen, and Entrepreneurial Spirit.

A student with Entrepreneurial Spirit is a student:

- who creates opportunities and achieves goals through hard work, perseverance, and discipline.
- who strives for excellence, earns success by exploring ideas and challenges the status quo.
- who is competitive, adaptable, and resilient giving them the confidence to take risks and make bold decisions in the face of adversity.

The student will recognize and assess venture opportunities in their environment, generate ideas for possible venture opportunities in their environment, plan a venture, assess a venture, demonstrate basic competencies, and make personal connections to the cluster content and processes to inform possible career pathway choices.

Junior Fab Labs

Fab Labs is a STEM makerspace environment with a focus on passions, peers and projects. Students will first select a technology (from robotics, electronics, coding or digital design) that they are passionate about. Peer groups will then sequence learning modules towards the culmination of a group project that is all documented in a digital learning journal.

Junior Film Studies: Animated

This course will explore animation both as popular entertainment and as an art form. We will analyze film elements (colour, sound, visual style, etc.) through various animated films. Students will learn the value of storyboarding as a critical and creative aid to animation. Students will learn how to appreciate, analyze, and interpret stories, characters, story structure, and narrative techniques through the medium of animated film.

Junior Film Studies: Fiction and Non-Fiction

In this course, students will learn the various technical aspects of filmmaking (camera angles, movements, mise-en-scene, etc.) and examine why and how these tools are used in live-action films. They will also learn to analyze and interpret film by developing a film vocabulary, identifying editing techniques, and investigating film elements within selected scenes. Students will study fiction and non-fiction films and the difference between the two. They will examine traditional fiction narratives, documentaries and non-fiction films and their target audiences.

Junior Foods – Level 1 - Beginner

This course is designed for students in **Grades 7 – 9 who have NOT taken a course in Jr. Foods.** Students will be introduced to the skills and procedures that are necessary for safe and sanitary food handling in the kitchen, basic equipment uses and care, comprehension of recipes and the importance of efficient work habits. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of knife skills, measuring techniques, preparation methods, role of ingredients, and the importance of nutrition.

Grade 7 – 9 Option Information

Junior Foods – Level 2 - Intermediate

Jr. Foods Level 2 is the second year Jr. Foods course designed for **students who have taken Jr. Foods previously**. Students learn safe and sanitary food handling procedures, equipment care, comprehension of recipes and the importance of efficient work habits. As well as, students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of baking focusing on basic measuring techniques, preparation methods, role of ingredients, and the proper use of equipment for baked goods.

Junior French – Level 1 - Beginner

This course is designed for students in **Grades 7 – 9 who have NOT taken a course in French since Grade 6**. In French level 1, students will be introduced to the basics of conversational French, and review and build upon the French gained in elementary grades. Students will increase their ability to understand French that is written and/or spoken, and increase their ability to communicate in writing and speaking. Students will explore how to introduce themselves and sustain basic everyday conversations, as well as exploring the topics of food and dining, sports and hobbies, stress and wellbeing, and relevant holidays.

Junior French – Level 2 - Intermediate

French level 2 is the second-year French course designed **for students who HAVE taken French 1 previously**. Students will build upon the basics of conversational French that they developed in elementary French and French level 1. Students will increase their ability to understand French that is written and/or spoken and increase their ability to communicate in writing and speaking. Students will develop their vocabulary by exploring various topics: numbers and games, family, hobbies and sports, food, celebrations. Students will increase their ability to express and explain their preferences and opinions, and to ask questions to clarify. **NOTE:** Students are able (and encouraged) to take this course in both grades 8 and 9, as the books explored will alternate from one year to the next, so students will be exposed to new content in each year.

Junior Guitar

Students of all abilities are welcome to join our guitar course. We will learn how to read chords, tabs and music notes. Students will play songs from a variety of musical genres. The school owns a set of guitars that students can use for this course.

Junior Horticulture

This course will focus on plant science and will cover units on soil preparations, plants and planting, turfs/grasses and landscaping. We will also explore controversial topics such as genetically modified foods and pesticide use. This course will combine classroom and hands-on learning opportunities to foster both student and plant growth.

Junior Introductory Forensic Science

Introductory Forensic Science is the study and use of scientific concepts and technologies related to solving crime. This multidisciplinary course introduces students to the science field of forensics and integrates concepts from biology, chemistry, and physics to explain how science and inquiry can be applied to the criminal justice system. Learning in this course begins by acquiring knowledge of basic scientific concepts and forensic investigation techniques. Students will take on the role of crime scene investigators and use these scientific principles to apply in mock criminal investigations. Students will learn to gather, and interpret physical evidence such as fingerprint analysis, impressions evidence, trace evidence and document analysis. Students will also be introduced to a variety of forensic science careers.

Junior International Sports

Students will have the opportunity to expose themselves to different sports from around the world, including Sepak Takraw, Palla, Cricket, and many more. This class combines a classroom component, where students learn about the sport, with an interactive portion held outside, where students will lead specific drills to teach necessary skills for each sport. Students must change and participate for every class.

Junior Leadership

Do you want to help plan school activities like spirit week or school dances? Do you have a burning desire to create a club or initiative to help connect the school to the community? The possibilities in Leadership are endless. In this class, students will have the opportunity to plan, and host a major event or activity whilst exploring different leadership styles and developing personal skills. This class is student driven, projects and activities will vary based on student interest. There will be an outdoor component to this class as we complete various teamwork and skill-building activities in the great outdoors.

Junior Learning Strategies

Learning Strategies is a course designed to assist students develop an in-depth understanding of strategies they can use to become successful learners. The intent is for students to become more actively involved in planning, monitoring and evaluating their own learning. Through explicit instruction, guided practice and ongoing feedback, students will investigate a broad scope of strategies to maximize their learning and achievement.

Grade 7 – 9 Option Information

Junior Math Foundation

This course focuses on developing and enhancing students' number sense through games and activities, discussions, and active practice. This course is designed to help students fill in gaps in previous knowledge. The topics covered in this course run independently of the core math classes - this is not a homework completion class. Students who are below 65% in their core math class are encouraged to take this class and will enjoy discussions that happen at a slower pace with a more thorough break-down of foundational concepts. Students from grade 7 to 9 are encouraged to take this course even if they took it last year – be prepared for deepening your math understanding with new challenges this year.

Junior New Media

Students will be introduced to the rapidly changing field of media technology. Students will explore the elements and principles of design that are used in mainstream art and media. Students will apply their knowledge through the use of various digital software, including, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and basic 3D graphic design software.

Junior Outdoor Education

Students will develop skills in a variety of outdoor activities and modes of travel: archery, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, camping, orienteering, disc golf and golf.

Junior Reading Strategies

This course is designed for those who want to get better at reading and for those love to read. Students will read in a variety of formats, including audio books, book clubs, and whole class novel reading. All levels of readers are welcome! To allow reluctant readers the opportunity to improve as well as providing choice for gifted readers looking for challenge. The goal is to improve the rate of reading and comprehension of reluctant readers. Hopefully, after this course their mindset towards reading will change for the positive.

Junior Sewing

This course is an introduction to sewing and textile arts. We will focus on hand-stitching and progress to using a sewing machine. Students will learn basic skills and techniques while creating simple projects. This course will provide students with the fundamentals of sewing and working with fabrics. It is project based and students will use their skill to create items like a pincushion, Christmas ornament, and pencil case. There are opportunities for students to source and create their own projects to explore their passions and creativity. Upon completion, students will have some basic knowledge to help them pursue further studies in fashion and design, if they desire.

Junior Synthetic Biology

Students will be introduced to basic microbiology concepts, including an overview of bacterial cell structure and function, and the central dogma of biology. Students will understand biosafety, and practice basic microbiology lab skills. Students will learn how to use biology as technology in the new field of synthetic biology and explore its potential applications. By the end of this course, students will modify the DNA of their own bacteria to create living, biological artwork on a Petri dish!

Junior Speech and Debate

Speech and Debate is a course which extends the Language Arts curriculum. It focuses on students building skills to improve their presenting skills and organizing ideas in a logical way. It allows students the opportunity to argue/support points on a topic. Students are able to listen to other student's ideas and react to them in a challenging and fun atmosphere.

Junior Sports Science

Students will be introduced to the core principles of sports science. Students will learn about sport injury and prevention as well as nutrition for optimizing sport and exercise performance. Students will also be exposed to the basics of sport and exercise physiology and psychology. Students will understand the impact science plays in the world of sport.

Junior Sustainable Textile

Students will examine the relationship between humans and the world they live in. They will explore ways in which they can reduce, reuse, and recycle materials to create beautiful, sustainable products and spaces. Students will learn how to take products that often find their way into landfills and turn them into new and usable items. Examples of projects include wallets or bags made from torn jeans, recycled tomato tins transformed into plant pots, and lemon peel turned into candied lemon or lemon infused olive oil. Students develop the motivation and commitment to work individually and collectively to reduce, reuse, and recycle products in an effort to positively use and maximize our resources and preserve our environment.

Junior Yoga

In Yoga, 7-9 students will experience the health benefits of yoga and develop their well-being and personal management skills – skills which will help them to balance school, work and other life priorities. Yoga is a holistic pursuit of wellness where students are encouraged to challenge their limits, both physically and psychologically. By experiencing these challenges, while learning in a supportive group setting, students will gain a better sense of identity, both as individuals and as active agents of a broader world.

Grade 7 – 9 Option Information

Junior Zoology

Zoology is the scientific study of animal life, their behaviour and physiology, as well as their interactions with each other and with their environment. In this course, students will develop a broad knowledge base of the study of phyla of kingdom Animalia, animal life, their anatomy, physiology, distributions, habitats, and environmental interactions. Students will investigate the diversity of Canadian wildlife in terms of behaviour and habitat and compare Alberta wildlife with wildlife in other parts of the world.

Summary of the Grade 7 to 9 Option Courses

Please click [HERE](#) for instructions on 'How to Select Junior High Option Course'

NOTE:

If you see one of these courses (Jr. Math Foundation, Jr. Reading Strategies, Jr. Learning Strategies) as an option selected for you, please **DO NOT DELETE or CHANGE**. This means our principal already communicated with your parents and your teachers recommended that you take the said courses.

Semester 1			
Quarter 1 (September 1 to November 10)		Quarter 2 (November 11 to January 30)	
Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2
Jr. Introductory Forensic Science A	Jr. Data Science and Artificial Intelligence A	Jr. Introductory Forensic Science A	Jr. Data Science and Artificial Intelligence A
Jr. Foods Level 1: Beginner A	Jr. Entrepreneurial Bootcamp A	Jr. Sewing	Jr. Entrepreneurial Bootcamp B
Jr. French Level 2: Intermediate (Full Semester)	Jr. Sustainable Textile	Jr. French Level 2: Intermediate (Full Semester)	Jr. Foods Level 2: Intermediate
Jr. Alternative Games A	Jr. Math Foundation A (Full Semester)	Jr. Yoga	Jr. Math Foundation A (Full Semester)
Jr. Construction Level 1: Beginner A	Jr. Construction Level 1: Beginner B	Jr. Construction Level 2: Intermediate A	Jr. Construction Level 2: Intermediate B
Jr. Film Studies (Fiction & Non Fiction)	Jr. Art - Drawing A	Jr. Film Studies (Animated)	Jr. Art - Drawing B
Jr. Guitar A	Jr. Drama A	Jr. Drama B	Jr. Guitar B
Jr. Reading Strategies A	Jr. Learning Strategies		Jr. Creative Writing A
			Jr. New Media
Semester 2			
Quarter 3 (January 31 to April 21)		Quarter 4 (April 22 to June 28)	
Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2
Jr. Zoology A	Jr. Synthetic Biology	Jr. Zoology B	Jr. Fab Labs
Jr. Speech and Debate	Jr. Foods Level 1: Beginner B	Jr. Sports Science	Jr. Foods Level 2: Intermediate B
Jr. Math Foundation B (Full Semester)	Jr. French Level 1: Beginner (Full Semester)	Jr. Math Foundation B (Full Semester)	Jr. French Level 1: Beginner (Full Semester)
Jr. Construction Level 1: Beginner C	Jr. Construction Level 2: Intermediate C	Jr. Outdoor Ed A	Jr. Outdoor Ed B
Jr. Dance	Jr. Art Painting & Sculpting A	Jr. Art Painting & Sculpting B	Jr. Alternative Games B
Jr. Band: Intermediate (Full Semester)	Jr. Band: Advanced (Full Semester)	Jr. Band: Intermediate (Full Semester)	Jr. Band: Advanced (Full Semester)
Jr. Leadership A	Jr. Reading Strategies B	Jr. Leadership B	Jr. Horticulture
Jr. Elite Athletics	Jr. International Sports A	Jr. International Sports B	
		Jr. Creative Writing B	

Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools - Calendar 2023-2024

ALL SCHOOLS EXCEPT - CENTRE FOR LEARNING@HOME & ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

		AUGUST 2023							SEPTEMBER 2023							1 Teacher Self Directed Classroom Set Up	
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	4 Labor Day	
28-29 Teacher Curriculum & Planning Days				1	2	3	4	5						1	2	5 First Day For Students	
28-29 New Teacher Orientation		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	30 National Day For Truth & Reconciliation	
30 School Based PD Day		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
31 CTR PD Day		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
		27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
		OCTOBER 2023							NOVEMBER 2023							11 Remembrance Day	
9 Thanksgiving		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	23 Student ½ Day – Interviews	
10 PD Day		1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	24 No School In-Lieu of Evening Interviews	
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
		29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30				
		DECEMBER 2023							JANUARY 2024							1-7 Christmas Holidays	
23-31 Christmas Holidays		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	30 Last Day Of Term I Exams	
							1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	31 PD Day	
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31					
		31															
		FEBRUARY 2024							MARCH 2024							22 No School In-Lieu of Interviews	
1 First Day Term II		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	29 Good Friday	
19 Family Day Holiday						1	2	3						1	2		
20-21 Faith Days		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
22-23 ATA Convention		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
		25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
		APRIL 2024							MAY 2024							20 Victoria Day	
1-7 Easter Holidays		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		
			1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4		
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
		28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31			
		JUNE 2024							JULY 2024							1 Canada Day	
26 Last Exam Day		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		
27 Last Day for Students and Staff								1		1	2	3	4	5	6		
28 Teacher Self Directed Year End Duties		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31					
		30															

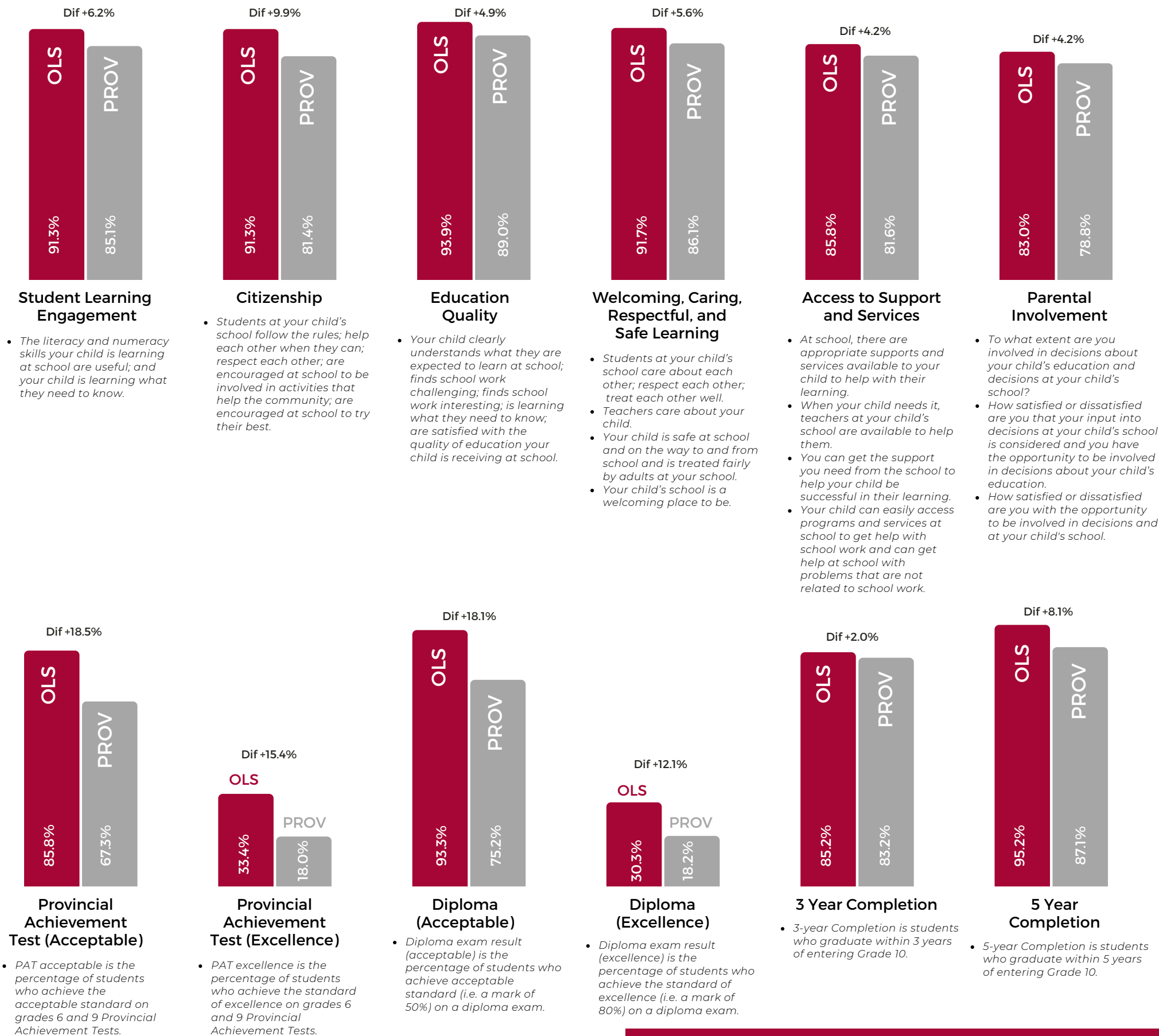
- 1 Teacher Self Directed Classroom Set Up
- 4 Labor Day
- 5 First Day For Students
- 30 National Day For Truth & Reconciliation
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 23 Student ½ Day – Interviews
- 24 No School In-Lieu of Evening Interviews
- 1-7 Christmas Holidays
- 30 Last Day Of Term I Exams
- 31 PD Day
- 22 No School In-Lieu of Interviews
- 29 Good Friday
- 20 Victoria Day
- 1 Canada Day

200 Hundred School Days (186 Instructional Days, 10 PD Days, 2 Days In-Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews, 2 Self Directed Teacher Set Up / Year End Duties)
 Teacher Curriculum And Planning Days are paid days for curriculum and planning. Teachers may be required to attend online divisional events related to curriculum. They will be partial day meetings that can be joined offsite if you have internet access. Staff who do not have these meetings scheduled shall self-direct their planning. Teacher Self Directed Classroom Set Up / Year End Duties are paid days for teachers to prepare their classrooms and to complete year-end responsibilities. Teachers will not be required to be at school on these days, but the expectation is that all responsibilities are completed.



ALBERTA ASSURANCE ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS

Alberta Education Assurance is a set of 12 performance measures calculated by Alberta Education for school and school boards across the province. Schools and school boards are evaluated based on achievement, improvement, and overall performance.



Insights

- OLS outperformed the province by 18.5% and 15.4% respectively on Provincial Achievement Test results in the areas of acceptable level of achievement and level of excellence.
- OLS outperformed the province by 18.1% and 12.1% respectively on Diploma results in the areas of acceptable level of achievement and level of excellence.
- OLS outperformed the province by 9.9% in the area of citizenship. Faith, stewardship, communication, and a rise in awareness about racism and discrimination are contributing factors to the success of this measure.

Faith Survey Results

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 94% | Percentage of students, parents, and teachers who indicate that they are satisfied with the relationship that exists between the school and the local Catholic parish |
| 94% | Percentage of students, parents and teachers who are satisfied with how they have grown as a Christian as a result of their involvement in Catholic Education |
| 89% | Percentage of students, parents and teachers who are satisfied with what is learned in religion classes |
| 95% | Percentage of students, parents and teachers who indicate they are satisfied with the religious celebrations that are held at the school |

Insight:

- Stakeholders are very satisfied with the religious celebrations offered at OLS. Staff satisfaction rate was actually 100%

[Click here for our full Annual Education Results Report](#)