The background of the entire page is a photograph of two young children in a classroom. A girl with dark skin and long braids is looking down at a boy with light skin who is playing with a wooden toy house. The house has a red roof and a white base. The text "KINDERGARTEN AT A GLANCE INFORMATION BOOKLET" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

KINDERGARTEN AT A GLANCE

INFORMATION BOOKLET

MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time in a young child's life, filled with new experiences and opportunities to learn and grow. It is the beginning of a wonderful learning journey, which begins at home with you as your child's first and most important teacher.

From the beginning of your child's life, you teach them about love, trust and their own goodness. This is the foundation of all their learning. Working together, we are dedicated to ensuring the development of the whole child – spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and academically. York Catholic schools build on the learning, faith development and guidance you've given your child to prepare them for this first step in their formal education. Our Catholic schools provide our youngest learners with an excellent academic program that is enhanced by Gospel values, religious education and family life.

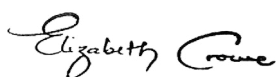
Children arrive at school with different backgrounds and experiences, as well as at different stages of development. As your child begins Kindergarten, they enter a world full of new challenges and opportunities for learning. To make this new beginning a secure and positive experience, it is important that there is a strong collaborative partnership between home and school. It is through this partnership that we are able to fulfill the York Catholic District School Board's mission to educate and inspire all students.

We are honoured that you are choosing one of our Catholic schools for your child's educational journey and we look forward to working with you to help them reach their God-given potential.

Yours in Catholic Education,



John De Faveri
Director of Education



Elizabeth Crowe
Chair of the Board

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN KINDERGARTEN

York Catholic District School Board uses Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ, a Canadian series organized to follow the sequence of the liturgical year of the Catholic Church and creates strong links between home, school, and parish.

The Catholic Kindergarten program is designed to help every child, created in the image of God, reach his or her full potential through a program of learning and faith development that is coherent, relevant, and age appropriate.

Kindergarten students enrich their Catholic faith life at school in these ways:

- Participating in the prayer life of the school on a daily basis
- Celebrating their faith in prayer services and masses
- Deepening their friendship with Jesus
- Nurturing the relationships with the parish

THE PROGRAM

The Kindergarten Program is a two-year program designed to give children time to adjust to the world of school. Young children show their understanding by doing, showing, and telling. The Kindergarten Program provides opportunities for growth in four areas of learning:

Belonging and Contributing

Self-Regulation and Well-Being

**Demonstrating Literacy
and Mathematics Behaviours**

Problem Solving and Innovating

The Kindergarten Team:

A team consisting of a certified teacher and a registered early childhood educator, work together in the classroom to observe, listen and ask questions about what the children are doing. They provide a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children. The learning activities are designed by the Kindergarten team to encourage children to think creatively, to explore and investigate, to solve problems and to share their learning with others.

Purposeful Play:

There is a strong link between play and learning for young children, especially in the areas of problem solving, literacy, numeracy, and social skills. When children are manipulating objects, acting out roles, or experimenting with various materials, they are engaged in learning through play. The Kindergarten classroom program consists of both child-initiated play and more structured play-based learning opportunities.

Communicating and Reporting:

Reporting takes place in November, February and June. Parents and/or teachers may meet to discuss their child at any time of the year.

A TYPICAL DAY

Children are involved in a variety of activities consisting of a balance of exploration, guided instruction, and explicit instruction. A typical day consists of the following:

Arrival

Children may engage in outdoor play.

Meeting Time

Gather for National Anthem, Prayer, Land Acknowledgment and Announcements.

Whole Group Learning

During this time, children are engaged in focused instruction. Developmentally appropriate lessons are designed to motivate young learners to participate fully in their learning.

Small Group Learning

There are many opportunities for small groups of children to work and play together. The Kindergarten team may work with small groups of students based on assessment, observation, and the Kindergarten program expectations.

Learning Centres

Children explore and investigate their world at learning centres. Some centres require the children to engage in specific tasks designed by the Kindergarten team. Other centres allow children to engage in self-directed playful learning.

Snack and Lunch

The children are supervised during these nutrition breaks.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The York Catholic District School Board supports the provision of child care services for students. School-based child care (infant to 5 years) and/or Before and After School programs (4 to 12 years) are in place in many of our school locations.

**CLICK HERE TO FIND
BEFORE & AFTER CARE
AT YOUR SCHOOL**

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR) is a collaborative venture of the York Catholic and York Region District School Boards and provides transportation to more than 53,000 students every day.

All service routes are designed and supervised by the STSYR. In accordance with York Catholic District School Board policies, Kindergarten students who are attending their home school and who live more than 1.2 km from school are eligible for transportation. Children who qualify can take the bus in the morning and at the end of the day.

**CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR
BUS STOP & ROUTE**

PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Parents and families are valuable contributors to their children's learning. Below are some suggestions on how to make every day life a learning connection.

Oral Language

- Surround children with language – talk to them often and respond to their questions and comments
- Sing or say nursery rhymes, songs, and chants
- Notice and talk about shapes, colours, letters and items of interest whenever they appear in the environment

Reading

- Read to children and talk about the story or pictures
- Take children to the library and encourage them to choose books
- Play travel games (e.g., play 'I Spy' using colours or first sounds)

Writing

- Print children's names often
- Provide children with magnetic or plastic letters and encourage them to make words – stick them on the fridge or cookie trays
- Provide a variety of materials for writing at home (e.g., crayons)
- Provide a variety of materials for crafts at home (e.g., children's scissors, paper, pencils, glue, crayons, paint, play dough, flyers)

Mathematics

- Let children help with cooking
- Solve problems together (e.g., How many plates do we need?)
- Count the stairs as you go up and down
- Sing counting songs and rhymes
- Notice and name shapes and patterns

MORE RESOURCES

Click to be directed to website

INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PARENT WEBSITE

NOVALIS

ONLINE BIBLE

ONTARIO CATHOLIC KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

TVO LEARN FOR KINDERGARTEN

YORK PUBLIC HEALTH IMMUNIZATION

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Mission

With Jesus Christ as our model, we provide all students with a Catholic education rooted in equity, well-being and learning.

Vision

A recognized leader in Catholic education committed to inclusion, excellence and innovation that develops socially responsible global citizens.

Values

Catholicity

Fiscal Responsibility
Integrity
Excellence
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Respect

Strategic Commitments

Catholic Faith
Equity and Inclusion
Student Achievement
Well-Being