

Cogito Alternative Program

Parent Information Session



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Goals for Today

- Explain the Cogito Alternative Program
- Help parents enrol in the school and program that is right for their child
- Explain the admission process and timeline
- Answer parent questions

Cogito, ergo sum ... I think, therefore I am



The Cogito Alternative Program at Edmonton Public Schools is an academic program based on whole-group, teacher-directed instruction in a structured setting. It provides a knowledge-based, enriched curriculum, with an emphasis on phonics, spelling, grammar, and computational and problem-solving skills. Daily homework is integral to the program.



Foundational Principles

These principles are the framework from which decisions about the program are made.

Foundational Principles

Instructional Delivery

- Instruction is directed to the whole class in a structured format to support mastery.
- Guided and independent practice follow.
- Assignments and activities can be whole group, small group, or individual.
- Feedback is provided in a timely manner so students make necessary corrections and absorb the material presented.

Knowledge Based

- Basic knowledge of a subject enables analysis and higher level thinking and reasoning.
- Subjects are discrete but information and skills are applied across curricula and to solve problems.
- Technology is used intentionally to support and enhance learning.
- The classroom is focused on learning and student engagement.

Additional Learning Outcomes

The curriculum follows the Alberta Programs of Study plus

- Extensions (scope and sequence)
- Locally Developed Courses (Division 3)
- French as a Second Language (Division 1,2, and 3)
- Optional Third Language available

Due to these additional learning outcomes, lessons move at a faster pace than in a mainstream program.

Extensions - Language Arts

- *Literacy Meaningful Applied Phonics* (Division 1) is the predominant approach to establish explicit phonics, decoding, writing, rules of grammar
- Penmanship, accuracy, precision, creativity and fluency in written and spoken expression
- Grammar, syntax and structure more developed than in other programs
- Use of classical literature and recommended reading series
- Regularly scheduled recitations (Division 1 and 2)

Extensions - Mathematics

- Emphasizes sequential development, proficiency of basic skills and mathematical reasoning
- Develops mathematical vocabulary and theoretical base
- Demands proficiency with calculation, *without the use of calculators*
- Expects demonstration of problem-solving through systematic processes
- Places additional emphasis on geometry and understanding fractional relationships
- Requires work to be shown and explained (metacognition)

Student Expectations

- High standards – exemplary work is expected
- Strong note-taking and study skills are established
- Standard formats are used
- Neatness, accuracy, completeness and thoughtful content are stressed
- Errors are corrected in a timely manner

Cogito Program vs Regular Program

- Pace of learning is accelerated
- Instructional time is maximized
- Daily homework is required
- Regular attendance is critical for student success

The Cogito Student

- Maintains a strong work ethic
- Follows the extended curriculum
- Works independently in the classroom
- Completes homework (Monday-Thursday)
- Demonstrates excellent behaviour

Cogito Student Profile

- is willing to work hard to achieve a high level of academic success
- is able to work independently at grade level
- is able to maintain focus and manage their behaviour
- is able to manage the fast pace of the program

Kindergarten Readiness

Experience has shown that this program is of greatest benefit to the child who is able to focus on learning in a structured environment, and who:

- Responds readily to oral directions
- Can focus on a sit-down task for 15 minutes at a time
- Completes tasks independently
- Has a range of experiences (being read to frequently, looking at books, counting, having conversations about what they see)

Finding the Right Fit

The Cogito Program does not meet everyone's needs.
Consider the following:

- Does your child like to move around and use their hands?
- Does your child struggle with language?
- Siblings don't always learn the same way.

Meetings for Success

Our goal is your child's success in school.

We work with families to help you make an informed decision when choosing a program that would best meet your child's educational needs.

To support this work, we will be scheduling a 'Meetings for Success' for all Kindergarten applicants.

Students entering grades 1-9

For these students, we ask parents to provide a copy of your child's latest Progress Report. For kindergarten students we need a copy of the Early Years Evaluation - Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA)

We will use this as a tool to have a conversation about your child's readiness for the expectations and demands of the program.

Family Commitment

Family commitment is essential for success in this program.

- Be partners in education
- Support the Cogito philosophy
- Sign a daily communication book
- Monitor homework (Monday-Thursday)
- Support students in memorizing and performing monthly poems (recitations)

Family Commitment

In order to help students experience success, we **strongly** discourage families from taking trips during the school year.

The Cogito program is based on sequential learning. Thus, it is challenging for students to pick up their studies after an absence.

Please consider whether Cogito programming is right for your family.

Cogito Program Locations

Elementary

- Horse Hill
- Kameyosek
- Lansdowne
- Lymburn
- Malcolm Tweddle
- Meyokumin
- Mount Pleasant
- Northmount
- Pollard Meadows
- Richard Secord
- Stratford
- Waverley

Junior High

- Allendale
- Balwin
- Edith Rogers
- Michael Phair
- Stratford

Student Admission and Enrolment

Following Edmonton Public Schools' Administrative Regulation for Student Admission and Enrolment (HC.AR), enrolment priorities are:

- Resident students who live in the attendance area, and who currently attending a Cogito Program
- Resident students who live in the attendance area
- Siblings of students who are returning the following year
- Resident Students
- Non-resident students currently enrolled in the Cogito program elsewhere in the Division

Random Selection

The random selection process is conducted by Division administration to ensure all eligible students are provided equal opportunity to attend the school or program.

Random selections will be completed and parents notified **no later than April 12, 2024.**

Timeline

- Meetings for Success and Parent Conversations occur prior to March 22.
- Pre-enrolment closes at 4:00 pm on March 22. Schools are not allowed to accept any more applications after this date.
- Parents will be personally contacted regarding the outcome of the random selection by Friday, April 12.
- Parents **MUST** be available to receive a phone call during school hours between April 5-12.

Timeline

- 2024-2025 class lists are finalized once Random Selection closes.
- At this point, we are considered full and cannot take any further registrations (even if students withdraw at a later date).
- We do not maintain a waiting list.

Thank you



Our goal is your child's success in school.

You can review this information on our website.



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Questions

