



Alternative Programs



Thorncliffe

(Kindergarten)

Colonel Sanders

(Grades 1-4)

Balmoral

(Grades 5-9)

Traditional Learning
Centre (TLC)

learning | as unique | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

Alternative Programs



Choice | Alternative Programs

- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Boys
- All Girls
- Languages (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Montessori
- Science
- Traditional Learning Centre (TLC)

Alternative Programs



Why Alternative Programs?

- Providing families choices to meet the unique learning needs of each student
- Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (Arts, Science), or teaching philosophy
- Informed choice is essential – what is THIS particular program about and how does it meet MY child's needs?

Alternative Programs



Inform | Key Messages

- Each program has unique features
- Integrity of the program remains the same across sites
- All sites follow Alberta Curriculum and Programs of Study with ATA certificated teachers
- All schools requiring a lottery follow the CBE lottery process
- Aligned with system timeframe for registration
- There is a designated Alternative Program school for each home address

Alternative Programs



Timeline | Registration/Lottery

- § Opens **January 13, 2025**
- § Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 11, 2025**)
- § Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 12, 2025**)
- § Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw (**February 27, 2025**)
- § Parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance letter
- § If you have applied to more than one program that is in Lottery, please wait until you have heard your Lottery results from all the schools before accepting one

www.cbe.ab.ca/support/Pages/SchoolEngage.aspx

Inform | Lottery Process

How We Prioritize Students For Lottery

There are 3 steps to determine the priority for accepting a student into a lottery school.

Priority 1

- Students residing within the walk zone who have a sibling (brother/sister [half or step, not cousins]) that will be attending the same program in the same school; concurrently (occurring or existing simultaneously).

Priority 2

- Students living outside the walk zone but in the designated area for the school, who will have a sibling in the same school at the same time; or
- Students living within the walk zone who do not have a sibling in the school.

Priority 3

- All other students living in the designated attendance area.

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Inform | Transportation

- K-5 yellow bus transportation provided following CBE congregated stop guidelines for alternative programs
- transportation for grades 6-9 may be offered through congregated yellow bus stops or Calgary Transit (no rebates are provided)
- parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- Congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through [MyCBE/PowerSchool](#)
- Congregated stops may not be within walking distance and alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop

Traditional Learning Centre



Elements of the TLC Program:

- character education
- whole group instruction
- academic enrichment (vertical and horizontal as appropriate and possible in the school setting)
- mandatory French as a Second Language from grade 1
- singing of *O Canada* daily
- mandatory school uniform
- TLC Program ends in Grade 9
- has daily homework expectations in grades 1-9

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Differences and similarities with community school programs:

Differences:

- Gradual release of responsibility model
- Character education program
- French from Grade 1
- Costs associated with purchasing the uniform

Similarities:

- Alberta Programs of Study and/or Curriculum
- Second language opportunities
- Daily PE
- Character
- Citizenship
- Personal Development

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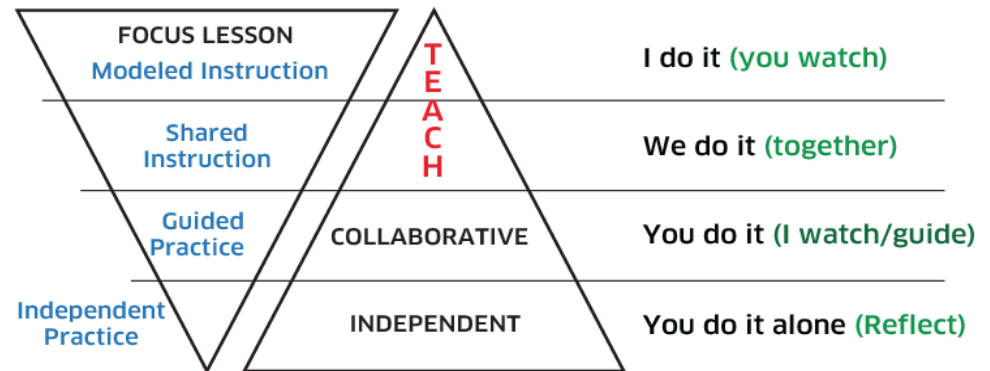


The TLC classroom

- utilizes the gradual release of responsibility model

The Gradual Release Model

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITY



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Figure 1: The Gradual Release Model

<http://kennedyschooltohome.weebly.com/gradual-release-of-responsibility.html>

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The TLC classroom:

- utilizes the gradual release of responsibility model
- provides whole group instruction as primary approach
- academic enrichment both vertical and horizontal where appropriate and possible
- intentionally teaches and reinforces elements of a character education program
- has daily homework expectations in grades 1-9

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A TLC student demonstrates...

- participation in positive social interactions and takes an active role when engaging in problem solving, acts of citizenship and service
- acceptance of a rigorous academic environment
- willingness to pursue excellence across all disciplines of the Alberta Curriculum
- a willingness to work independently
- a commitment to daily homework as guided by Administrative Regulation 3060

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Family Supports | Commitments

- Daily uniform compliance
- French
- Actively support with homework
- Regular communication with the school through email, phone calls and conferences
- Support a welcoming, safe, respectful learning environment
- Regular attendance in accordance with the Education Act
- Volunteering

Traditional Learning Centre



Traditional Learning Centre Program

Is the Traditional Learning Centre (TLC) the Right Choice for My Child?

A successful student demonstrates:

- respect for self, others, and the environment
- an active leadership role when engaging in problem solving, acts of citizenship, and service
- willingness to explore and participate across all curricular areas
- willingness to work both independently and collaboratively in groups
- an ability to engage in the gradual release of responsibility framework
- willingness to adhere to uniform regulations

Characteristics of the TLC Program

- Gradual release of responsibility is the primary method of instruction (I do it, We do it, You do it together, You do it alone)
- Flexible groupings to personalize and differentiate instruction
- A respect for self, others and the environment in and through character education
- French as a Second Language is mandatory from Grades 1 to 9
- Music is mandatory kindergarten through Grade 6
- Band will be offered as a complimentary course in Grade 7 to 9
- Student learning is shared in ways determined by the school, which may include assemblies, celebrations of learning, parent information nights, etc.
- Kindergarten to Grade 4 students are in cohorts by grade
- Grade 5 to 9 students are in cohorts by grade
- Homework expectations are in place for kindergarten to Grade 9 and are determined by the school and [CBE Administrative Regulation 3066](#)
- Mandatory school uniform
- The TLC program ends in Grade 9



learn | visit our website for more information:
cbe.ab.ca/programs/program-options

Traditional Learning Centre



Uniform Guidelines:

School uniform colour:

Middle School – navy (TLC cardigan & vest)

Elementary School – green (TLC cardigan & vest)

All students wear the TLC tartan plaid. Either the plaid tie, tartan dress (Elementary) or kilt (Middle School) must be worn on formal days.

Formal uniform is required on Mondays as well as on special assembly or occasion days as established by the school but can be worn every day. Informal uniform may be worn on all other days.

All uniform pieces must be clean, tidy, in good repair and fit appropriately. All uniform pieces should be clearly and permanently labelled so that in the event that a piece is found it may be returned to the correct student.

Further information about purchasing is available when acceptance into TLC is confirmed and child is registered. Do NOT purchase a uniform until this time.

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Uniform Guidelines:

2025-2026 Uniform Purchasing Windows

July 2 - October 31, 2025

December 17, 2025 - January 31, 2026

April 15, 2026 - May 31, 2026

**TLC Uniform pieces are available at:
McCarthy Uniforms**

5911 3 St SE 403-252-9342

www.mccarthyuniforms.ca

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Uniform Guidelines:

Formal:

TLC Crested Cardigan
Middle school – navy
Elementary - green

Plain White Long or Short Sleeve
Collared Dress Shirt (not golf shirt)
(tucked into kilt or pants)

TLC Plaid Dress, Kilt or Navy Twill
Pants

Navy Tights, Knee Socks or Socks

Non Scuffing Black Shoes/Dress
Shoes

Bicycle Shorts when wearing the
Dress or Kilt

TLC Plaid Tie when wearing the
Navy Twill Pants (no leggings)

TLC Plaid Headband (optional)

Informal:

TLC Crested Cardigan or TLC
Crested
Vest (Middle School – navy)

Plain White Long or Short Sleeve
Collared Dress Shirt
OR

TLC Crested Golf/Polo Long or Short
Sleeve Shirt

TLC Plaid Kilt or Navy Twill Pants or
Navy Walking Short/Skort/ Skirt

Navy Tights, Knee Socks or Socks

Non Scuffing Black Shoes/Dress
Shoes

Bicycle Shorts when wearing the Kilt

TLC Plaid Tie (optional)

TLC Plaid Headband (optional)

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Bell times

School start and end bell times have not yet been determined due to changes in transportation.

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Your Designated TLC School

- Your designated TLC school can be found on the [CBE website](https://cbe.ab.ca)
 - Go to **School**
 - **Find a School**

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How to Register

The Registration tab on the CBE website will guide you through all the steps required to complete your registration. The information is good for New to CBE Students (Kindergarten) and Existing CBE Students

Kindergarten & New to CBE Students

- Go to the [CBE website](#)
- Register
- New Student Registration or if you have a student already in CBE use your MYCBE account to register

Grades 1-9 Existing CBE Students

- Log into your [MyCBE account](#)
- Go to the School Engage Section
- Complete an Expression of Interest

Alternative Programs



School Engage | Expression of Interest



Calgary Board of Education

Expression of Interest - 2024-25

Form Submission:

Current CBE (Kindergarten to Grade 8) students may complete this form to register at an alternative program school, for 2024-25, by noon on Feb 13, 2024 for schools in lottery; and until further notice for all other Alternative Programs. All Expression of Interests are based on Priority Lists, as stated in Administrative Regulation 6000 | Child and Student Registration and Admission. Completing an Expression of Interest does not guarantee acceptance into an alternative program. Registration will not occur until a family receives an offer of acceptance and confirmation of acceptance. Acceptance into a Kindergarten program does not guarantee registration in Grade 1. Note: school year 2024-25 starts in August 2024.

Student Information

Legal Last Name
Legal First Name
Legal Middle Name

Student Primary Address

This is the address on file; if this is not correct, first you must submit a Demographic Verification form.

Street
City
Province
Postal Code
Home Community (in Calgary)

School Information

Student's current grade
Student's grade in 2024-25

Designated Alternative Program Preference

An alternative program is a program that emphasizes a particular language, culture or subject-matter; or uses a particular teaching philosophy. All other programs fall under the regular program umbrella. For a full list of alternative programs, visit CBE's Program Options webpage.

Alternative Program - Preference 1

Note | An Expression of Interest requires at least one alternative program selection. It may have up to three selected alternative program choices. Please note that these selections are not ranked in the order that they are selected. Each will be considered equally.

Alternative Program (1st Choice)

Designated Alternative Program School (1st Choice)

Alternative Program Declaration

I have read and understand the information regarding the alternative program(s) in which I have expressed interest.

I understand that if a lottery process is utilized and the student's name is NOT drawn, the student will be enrolled in the designated regular program school based on the student's address.

I understand that I will receive any notifications / outcomes by email.

I understand that there are additional fees and/or volunteer commitments associated with the alternative program. If I am unable to pay these fees, I will apply for a waiver.

I have read and understood the transportation information and fees.

Siblings

My child has a sibling(s) who will be in the same school, same program, next school year.

My child / student is a twin (or other multiple).

Declaration

I, the undersigned,

Please ensure you fill out ALL sections of School Engage when registering, uploading all pertinent documents helps streamline the registration process.

Traditional Learning Centre



Thorncliffe School

- AM and PM half day Kindergarten program, currently 1 AM and 2 PM Classes
- Current class sizes 21-26 students, will offer placement for up to 25 students per class
- Students attend Monday – Thursday, and some Fridays
- All students receive music and phys. Ed instruction each week
- Regular Library visits
- Bussing is one way:
 - AM – Bus brings students to school, require pick up at mid-day dismissal
 - PM – Bus brings students home from school, require drop off at mid-day start time
- Child care options available in the community (before/after care)

Traditional Learning Centre



Colonel Sanders School

Mornings

As shared, bell times are changing for the upcoming school year. All students enter through grade level doors. These doors are open 10 minutes prior to the school's start time and remain open for 5 minutes.

After this point in time, students must enter through the main door and visit the office for a welcome slip, as they will be marked late.

It is expected that students are in their classrooms ready to learn once the start bell rings, if they are entering after grade level doors have closed, they will not be ready to learn.

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Colonel Sanders School

Grades 1 – 4

- 4 classes within each grade level
- Classes will contain at least 25 students each

All students have French

- Grades 1-3 will have between 45-55 hours per year
- Grade 4 will have between 75-85 hours per year

All students have Music

- On average every other day

All students have Physical Education and Wellness

- Every day

All students have Library

- Usually once a week

Clubs

- Teachers offer clubs throughout the year
- Clubs offered are based on student and teacher decision making
- Hugs and Bugs – the administrative team, student voice committee

Traditional Learning Centre



Colonel Sanders School

Learning Journey

- § A Learning Journey is an opportunity for parents/guardians to engage with their students within their learning
- § The Learning Journey shows families where the student is within their learning at that moment in time and how they are being taught
- § Parent feedback has been extremely positive, they have shared that they have a better understanding of how their students is learning at school

Traditional Learning Centre



Changes to band program

- For the 2025-26 school year, band will be an **optional** course for grades 7-9 students
- Music will remain mandatory for all grades 5-6 students
- Rationale: to offer students more choices in learning opportunities
- Schools will offer alternate CTF or complimentary courses based on resources available
- Schools will share details about complimentary course selections in the new year

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Balmoral School

- Each day has 6 periods:
 - ELA+SS = Humanities (2 periods)
 - Math
 - Science
 - Physical Education
 - FSL or Complementary course
- Choice of complementary course from Mon-Thu
- Choice of CTF on Fridays, may include:
 - Foods, construction, design studies, coding, environmental stewardship, marketing, photography, etc.
 - Determined in Sept 2025

Traditional Learning Centre



Balmoral School

- Cafeteria ("The Pickle Jar") is open for all students during lunch break
- Grades 8 and 9 students are permitted to go off-campus with parent permission (no teacher supervision off-campus)
- Competitive sports start in Grade 6 or 7 depending on the team, practices are early morning and/or after school
- Clubs offered mostly at lunch, some after school (chess, art, speech, student council, robotics, etc.)
- Enrichment opportunities include math contests, science fair, speech tournaments, leadership opportunities, etc.



Thank You

Please contact the school if you
have any further questions or
concerns

Alternative Programs



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