



Frequently Asked Questions – Kindergarten at Captain John Palliser

Registration & Lottery Process

- Links to all the required paperwork can be found at: <https://school.cbe.ab.ca/school/captainjohnpalliser/registration/register/pages/default.aspx> Scroll to the end of the text and look for the Community (3 items) or Montessori checklists (5 items)
- If your child is already registered in a CBE school and you are looking to move to CJP only a transfer form is required, not the full registration package. If you are wanting to join the Montessori program the 2 additional Montessori papers from the registration package are required.
- If your child is registered in another school outside of the CBE, a full registration package is required.
- If your child is not a Canadian Citizen please contact the Welcome Centre for registration information: <https://cbe.ab.ca/welcome/Pages/default.aspx>
- All Community registrations are confirmed as soon as all 3 registration documents are confirmed as received.
- All completed Montessori registration packages are placed in our lottery, to be held on Wednesday February 10. We cannot confirm/accept any Montessori registrations until after this date, when letters of acceptance will be emailed to families.
- Once the first round of students have been drawn from the lottery, acceptance letters will be shared within 10 days. Families have an additional 10 days to respond. As you can imagine this process can take a few weeks, and goes throughout the spring. As spots are accepted, or declined, we update our lottery list and move through the students to offer as many places as we have. The CBE planning and transportation department lets us know how many students we have space for. They have not yet shared that data for next year.
- Over the past few years we have been able to offer placements to the large majority of students who have applied for our Montessori program, from all priority levels. Not in February, but throughout the remainder of the school year, and sometimes into the first week of September. We have no way of knowing how many students will apply this year or how many will choose to attend should they get a letter of acceptance.
- All families are encouraged to also register at their community school. When you accept a placement at CJP we will let your community school know that you will be attending CJP. Until you are accepted your child will have a place in their CBE community school.

- If you are wondering if your child qualified for kindergarten please go to <https://cbe.ab.ca/programs/kindergarten/Pages/default.aspx> and enter your child's date of birth. Students born in Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec each year qualify to enter kindergarten when they are 4, they also have the option to wait until the next year and start kindergarten when they are 5. They cannot do both. All other students start kindergarten in the September when they are 5.

The Montessori Classroom

How many students are in the Montessori program at CJP?

- We currently have just over 300 Montessori students at CJP
- Class sizes range between divisions. Currently our class sizes in both Montessori and Community are approximately 18 – 26 students.

How long has CJP hosted a Montessori Alternative Program?

- Montessori has been a part of the CBE alternative program choices since 1999. CJP has been one of the locations since 2006. Location of programs is determined by the planning department in the CBE. We do not anticipate any change in the location of our program.

Do Montessori students wear uniforms?

- Montessori students do not wear uniforms.

Where will my child attend Middle / Jr High School?

- At this time there is not a CBE Montessori junior high setting. All Montessori students attend their designated community middle/ junior high schools starting in grade 7. They can also apply to other alternative settings for junior high school.

What does a Montessori Classroom look like during a pandemic?

- Montessori in a pandemic, not something that we had thought about a year ago! It is more challenging to utilize the Montessori materials in a pandemic, the Montessori philosophy, how we approach teaching, remains constant. We have increased the ratio of materials to students in many of our classes to assist with minimizing touch points. We assign materials to students on a weekly basis (Mon-Thurs), the materials then quarantine (Fri – Sun) and are assigned to a different student the following week. The Montessori philosophy and methodology continue to be a part of all that we do in the Montessori classroom each and every day.

Classroom configurations

The CBE Planning Department determines how many Montessori students are accepted in the lottery. The number of students is based on a variety of factors including the maximum number of students the school can hold, the size of the community program, the number of students currently enrolled in Montessori, and the projections for enrollment provided by the City of Calgary census.

How many Kindergarten classes does CJP have?

- CJP will have one AM Community Kindergarten class in 2021
- We plan to have 3 Montessori Kindergarten classes in the fall 2021, one AM class, two PM classes

- Class size is dependent on the number of students who register, and accept placement, at CJP
- With 1 Community class, all community students are welcomed into the AM Community class, this has traditionally allowed for a Community Kindergarten class size of approximately 15 – 20 students.
- In the last three years, every K student who applied to the Montessori program was eventually offered a spot. This is not the case for Grade 1 and 2. Families may not be offered a space immediately following the lottery. However, families who apply to multiple alternative programs are slowly removed and those families who are still eagerly waiting for a Montessori spot have eventually received one. It is important to know, we can't predict the number of applications we receive. Nor can we predict who will want to stay in our program after they have received an offer. We do know many families apply to many alternative programs in both the CBE and Catholic boards. Families can't hold spots in multiple programs or even spots in multiple boards. Families have a limited time to make their decisions. All schools in Calgary; CBE, Alternative, Catholic communicate on a regular basis, especially when we find students enrolled in multiple locations.

Transportation

- Bus registration fees are determined by downtown, at the direction of the Trustees, each year. This year the fees for mandated riders is \$465, non-mandated riders are \$800. All CJP Montessori students are non-mandated riders. CJP students designated to Hamptons grade 5/6, Edgemont overflow, and L&L are mandated riders.
- <https://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/busing-and-transportation/Pages/default.aspx>
- We encourage all eligible families to register for transportation in May. This allows your address to be included in the route planning process which happens over the summer. You can always cancel your transportation contract before the end of September without any penalty
- Access to register for transportation happens once you have a CBE student number and can set up a MYCBE account. CJP will provide all K students who have been accepted into our program a student number as part of your Kindergarten Orientation package

School Hours 2020-2021

What will the school hours be in 2021-2022?

- School hours are confirmed in May/June of every year
- There are often minor changes to these hours based on Ministry protocols, our hours tend to remain very close to the times on our website.
- 2020-2021 hours Grades 1-6
 - Monday – Thursday 9:08 – 3:51
 - Friday 9:08 – 1:21
- 2020-2021 Hours Kindergarten
 - AM Kindergarten
 - Monday – Thursday 9:08 – 12:01
 - Alternating Friday 9:08-12:01
 - PM Kindergarten
 - Monday-Thursday 12:57 – 3:51
 - Alternating Friday 9:08-12:01
- The minimal range in school bell times are determined by downtown departments who take into consideration the alignment of bussing with our partner transportation schools. CJP is the second run for our bus drivers, making us a late start/late finish school.

School Fees and Supplies

All CBE students pay student fees

What fees will my CJP student pay?

- This year our supply fee is \$40/student grades 1 – 6, \$20/student for kindergarten students.
 - The supply fee covers all the supplies that a student requires for their year of learning (Markers, scribbles, pencil box, paint, pencils, erasers etc.). You may send additional supplies with your child, many students like fancy pens and markers, though it is not required. This year we have limited additional supplies, due to Covid and space constraints. Please label all additional school supplies.
- Usually we also have a fee for field trip, around \$80 for Grade 1 – 6, \$40 Kindergarten
- All fees will be accessed and paid through your MyCBE account.
- If your child stays for lunch (Gr 1-6) there is a lunch supervision fee..
- If your child rides the bus there is a transportation fee. The transportation fee is set every spring for the upcoming school year.

Communication

At CJP we provide a safe, caring, welcoming and respectful place for all staff, students, and families. While this looks different this school year, due to pandemic health regulations, we continue to communicate with our families on a regular basis.

What type of communication do I receive about my child's learning progress?

We have 5 formal communication opportunities each year:

- Teacher events in the fall

- 2 report cards (Mid year and end of year)
- 2 student learning conferences (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- Less formal opportunities include daytime and evening celebrations of learning

How will the classroom teacher communicate with me?

- Classrooms have blogs/twitter/online access where insight is provided into weekly classroom activities.
- Classrooms have an online presence in Google classroom where students can access work and teachers often communicate about daily/ weekly events.
- Students have an IRIS account, where student specific information can be uploaded and shared with families.
- Powerschool houses student specific academic information.
- Teachers can be contacted via email and phone. This year, all face to face meetings with parents occur using Microsoft Teams.

Are there other ways to find out information about the school?

- Our Captain John Palliser website is a wealth of information for our community. The website is updated frequently.
- School administration shares a weekly update via email each Friday during the school year. This communication can also be found on our school website
- Our school council maintains a Facebook page that offers updates and communication to families. This site is not supported by or checked for accuracy by the school. Families must be part of our school, with an assigned teacher to gain access to this secure Facebook group

Classrooms

In both our Community and Montessori programs the Alberta Programs of Study are followed. That includes ELA (English Language Arts), math, social studies, science, fine arts, physical education, health and music.

Will my child learn French at CJP?

- All our Division 2 students participate in French as a Second Language classes. Division 2 consists of our grades 4, 5, and 6 students.

What if my child is just learning English?

- Our classrooms are language rich environments. Being immersed in a language is the best way to learn it! All CBE teachers use the provincial English Language Benchmarks to both assess student language acquisition and share information with parents about progress in learning English. All teachers support our ELL students in learning both basic English and academic English. CJP also has an ELL teacher who supports ELL students with their language acquisition. If you speak a language other than English at home as your first language, please continue to speak this language with your children. A strong foundation in a first language supports the acquisition of a rich second language. Teachers meet all children where they are at, for their English skills and will move them forward.

Are there other opportunities in the classroom?

- All CJP students engage in STEM tasks, robotics, and Maker Space opportunities. Every child spends time in the Learning Commons and has time to select and borrow books from our school library. Also, every class participates in both in class and community fieldtrips to enhance and support the learning happening day to day in the classroom.

Students with Special Needs/ Students Who are Coded

Teachers meet all children where they are at and move them forward in their learning, socialization, and emotional regulation. The CBE has a strong support system in place to provide extra guidance and instruction for our teachers if/when required.

Am I allowed to register my student with special needs at CJP?

- Every student is welcome to register in any alternative program designated to their address, regardless of codes or needs. It is important for parents to look at the best fit for programming for their child. Please examine your child as a learner to determine what program best meets their needs.

My child will thrive in an unstructured environment so Montessori is the best fit – right?

- We often hear feedback from families that the unstructured nature of Montessori is the best fit for their student with unique needs. The belief that Montessori is unstructured is false. Montessori focusses on independence and intrinsic motivation. If your child is not self motivated to engage with materials and seek out learning opportunities then perhaps Montessori is not a good fit. In a Montessori program students are presented with materials and then asked to engage with the materials (practice), share with a classmate, and then demonstrate what they know. Children are expected to follow the routines and expectations using the materials as laid out by Maria Montessori. Students learn the materials they are ready for in a systematic and well planned way following the Montessori philosophy and training. The program moves from concrete to abstract. Our Montessori classes have boundaries, expectations and understandings that follow the Montessori philosophy and the Alberta Program of Study. A Montessori classroom is not unstructured and does not provide opportunities for students to disengage.

Multi-aged Classrooms

What is a multi-aged or blended learning environment and why is this good for my child?

- Multi-aged classrooms are an amazing opportunity for both the Montessori and Community programs at CJP. They promote community, provide for longer established relationships with students, foster peer relations, as well as allowing all students to show their strengths within the classroom environment. Grade level curriculum is addressed and can be accessed by all students within the classroom. Each year children build on their previous knowledge, ensuring that they are able to access new knowledge at a higher level, deepen their understanding, and foster a love of learning. No two children access the same curriculum, at the same level, at the same time, in exactly the same way in any classroom. Multi-aged classrooms allow for diverse learning opportunities and celebrate the success that each child brings to a classroom.

Out of School Care/Kindergarten Enhancement

Is there a before and after school program at CJP?

- Yes, there is one program that operates within the school. Please note: these are private programs, not CBE programs.

How do I learn about the Out of School Care and register my child?

- Please visit: <http://www.pre-kindergartened.com/captain-john-palliser> for information about Out of School Care (OSC) and Kindergarten Enhancement programs that are housed at CJP.

School Calendars

There are two different types of calendars in the CBE. The CBE shares a generic calendar about a year in advance. This calendar is personalized by each school. You will note, most PD days are the same on all calendars, however there are a few PD days that each school selects independent of each other. CJP follows the traditional school calendar.

Where do I find the CBE/ CJP Calendars?

- CBE school calendars are available on the CBE website under Registration. <https://cbe.ab.ca/registration/calendars/Pages/default.aspx>
- CJP will have a few additional non-instructional days. Our school specific calendar is posted to our website each June. You can access it on our website: About Us, Calendar <https://school.cbe.ab.ca/school/captainjohnpalliser/about-us/calendar/pages/default.aspx>

Volunteering

We encourage volunteers to be a part of our CJP community. Volunteers are able to help and support in so many ways! This year, again, has looked rather different as we aren't currently able to invite parents into our school building. However, parents have joined our school council and parent association, organized fundraisers, and supported our learners in a variety of ways through the parent organizations this year.

What are some of the volunteer opportunities available at CJP?

- Approved volunteers support our students in a variety of ways. supervision for field trips, cutting out laminating, room parents, classroom support with reading, math games, literacy input, technology input, explore and discover time, bulletin board displays are all typical in school supports offered by volunteers
- Many parents/ guardians also find time to volunteer with School Council and Parent Association. There are many ways to volunteer with this great group of involved parents.

What do I need to do to volunteer in the school?

- To be a part of our volunteer community we require an annual volunteer form as well as a valid PRC (police record check). The process is outlined on the CBE website: <https://cbe.ab.ca/get-involved/volunteer/Pages/volunteer.aspx>
- Participation in monthly Parent Association and School Council meetings does not require volunteer clearance