



**Embrace.  
Empower.  
Unleash.**

**ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW**



For over 40 years as a leader  
of inclusive education,  
Calgary Academy has lived  
and breathed by a simple yet  
profound ethos: **we place  
the individual needs of each  
student at the heart of  
everything we do.**

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Iyârhe Nakoda Nations, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta District 6, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

# The place for unique learners.

We know that every child learns differently, and our staff have the skills and expertise needed to tailor their lessons to how each student learns best.

## Five Reasons Your Child Will Thrive at CA

Over 40 years of helping students succeed

Inclusive culture and community

Holistic approach to learning and growth

Expert educators

Big opportunities



A photograph of three children standing outdoors, viewed from behind. The child on the left is a boy with glasses, wearing a light blue t-shirt. The child in the middle is a boy with a mohawk hairstyle, wearing a dark blue t-shirt with the word 'DART' printed in large, bold, black letters. The child on the right is a girl with long brown hair, wearing a pink top. They are all looking towards a bright, hazy sky. The text 'Over 40 Years of Student Success' is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

# Over 40 Years of Student Success

School is an enormous part of a child's life, and it should be a safe space designed to inspire, challenge, and support their success. To thrive, students need to know they are cared for and believe they are capable of more than they can imagine. Once a child becomes confident in themselves, there are few limits on what they can accomplish.



## This is their school, and it should feel that way.

From culture-building activities within classrooms and grades to whole-school REACH celebrations, the We Are All Knights House System, and altruistic initiatives help ensure your student feels connected to the school.

As a school, our job is to know what makes your child exceptional, nurture their belief in themselves, develop the skills they'll need to take risks and thrive, and unleash their passions and interests.

**Welcome to Calgary Academy.**





# REACH

## A word to live, work, and learn by.

At Calgary Academy, REACH is a way of life. These principles embody our core beliefs and guide the way our students interact with each other and the world. Embedded into our community, REACH is how we live day-to-day school life and acknowledge one another.



### Respect

Acceptance and compassion towards themselves, others and their surroundings.



### Enthusiasm

A passion for living, learning, and the ability to bring positivity and energy to every experience.



### Altruism

A concern for the welfare of others without anticipation of reward and an understanding that everyday actions help individuals become the people we admire.



### Commitment

The self-motivation to set goals and work relentlessly to achieve them, even when it is challenging.



### Honesty

Sincerity and integrity towards themselves and others, and the recognition that this is the foundation of meaningful relationships.











# Four Pillars

**We know our students can achieve great things.**

Independence, self-confidence, and the ability to interact with those around us are the foundational pillars to success. Calgary Academy's Four Pillars guide our philosophy for whole-student success.



## **Maximize every student's academic performance.**

We teach students the core processes necessary to build an effective learning toolbox. Our customized academic programs are designed to leverage a student's natural strengths and to close academic skill gaps. For students at or above grade-level, we provide enrichment opportunities that enable them to tackle more complex tasks.



## **Teach independent work habits and transferable skills.**

Once students have filled their toolbox, they need to develop the independent work habits and transferable skills to use their tools effectively. By complimenting time management, organization and planning strategies with transferable skills such as test preparation, test taking, and technology fluency, we ensure students can use their tools to achieve success in learning and life.



## **Improve pro-social and self-advocacy skills.**

Empathy, asking for help, and speaking up are just some of the critical skills children need to form healthy friendships and relationships with peers and adults. We teach students how to choose actions and assess consequences as they develop the foundational skills required to have healthy social experiences wherever they go.



## **Build self-esteem and self-confidence.**

Students need a safe, secure and predictable learning environment to build self-esteem and self-confidence. By developing meaningful student-teacher relationships, we make sure every student has the opportunity to succeed and that every accomplishment is celebrated. As a student's self-esteem and self-confidence grows, they ignite a passion for success in every aspect of life.



A photograph of a classroom scene. A female teacher with long dark hair and glasses is seated at a table, gesturing with her hands while speaking. Two students are seated across from her. A male student on the left is seen from the back, wearing glasses. A female student in the center has long brown hair and is resting her chin on her hand, looking towards the teacher. The background features a yellow grid calendar and two motivational posters: one pink with the text 'Think you can't think you can't' and another yellow with 'it becomes a habit'.

# Where Dedicated Educators Inspire Excellence

When hiring our school's staff, Calgary Academy looks for a balance of experience, enthusiasm, inspiration, and growth mindsets. Our students need talented, skilled teachers who bring their hearts to their work and are wholly committed to each child's success. Staff participate in an extensive onboarding process to ensure teachers consistently deliver the "CA Way" to their students.



## **Empowering students starts with educators and staff.**

Our teachers share a commitment to student success and a passion for the future of learning. They are experts in their fields, continually striving for excellence while being supported with the resources needed to tailor their lessons to how your children learn best.

United by a shared commitment to our students, teaching staff are supported by collaborative teams across the Junior and Senior Schools, including instructional designers, literacy and numeracy specialists, psychologists, experts in research and assessment, speech-language pathology, and contracted occupational therapists.

We are all learners alongside our students.

A photograph of three students in a classroom. A boy in a blue sweater and a girl in a grey hoodie are looking at a document held by a third student whose face is partially visible on the left. A large screen is in the background.

# Our Academic Pathways

As a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school with three academic programs (Academy, Collegiate, and Blended+), we have programming for every learner, no matter their learning needs, preferences, or lifestyles. Woven together through Integrated Studies, physical education, extra-curriculars, whole-school events, and cross-divisional projects, these programs create a vibrant learning community.

## Three programs to meet the needs of every learner.

There is a concerted focus on student wellness, transferable skills, executive functioning, and growth areas across all grades and programs. Whether a student struggles with foundational skills, focus, organization, reading, or math, our teachers will provide a rich learning environment to help them grow.

### ACADEMY STREAM

Strengths-based remediation-  
focused program.

### COLLEGIATE STREAM

Grade-level program with a focus  
on increased independence.

### BLENDED+

Highly flexible and supportive  
hybrid and off-campus program.

# 99%

of students graduate

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# 88%

of graduates pursue  
post-secondary  
within one year of  
graduation

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# 1,970

graduates

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# 4,100

total students served





## Early Years Ratio

Kindergarten: 12:1

Grades 1–2: 16:1

## KINDERGARTEN–GRADE 2

# Early Years

It's the place to begin.

Curiosity, creativity, and social-emotional wellbeing are critical foundations to nurture the holistic development of young learners.

The Early Years program at Calgary Academy provides students with a vibrant learning environment centred around agency and individualized learning experiences. Small class sizes and a close-knit culture mean students belong to a community of learners co-constructing their experiences.

Teachers blend nature, art, movement, and academics throughout the day. A multi-sensory approach to learning allows students to explore the world around them. Students experience authentic learning throughout the year with field trips, forest adventures, outdoor classrooms, and natural play spaces.

In the Early Years Program, students develop a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, learning strategies, and executive functioning skills. Individualized programming in our small class sizes ensures students get what they need to thrive. This approach helps establish a successful journey that challenges and inspires their learning.

I like that they are learning outside the box. I like that they're outside. I like that they're thinking of different ways to teach, because I think that's the key to making these little ones love school and love learning forever.

**GRACE REID**  
COLLEGIATE PARENT

## Full Day Kindergarten

For children five years of age by Dec. 31 of the current school year.



## Specialist Teachers


Subject-matter experts teach art, drama, multimedia, music, physical education, and outdoor education classes.

## QUEST Leadership Council

Leadership development begins in Grade 1 and runs through the entire Junior School program.







## Academy Ratio

Grades 3–8: 8:1

Grades 9–12: 10:1

GRADES 3–12

# Academy Program

It's the place to be inspired.



Through teacher support and remediation we witnessed our children's confidence bloom. It didn't take long for our kids to settle into the school. Our son rekindled his love for learning.

**WRAMA WILLIS**  
ACADEMY PARENT

When a student's academic performance and confidence are at stake, there isn't a moment to spare in supporting their success.

Calgary Academy's flagship program has over 40 years of success in identifying student learning challenges and applying targeted intervention and support needed to help students build their confidence and rekindle their love of learning.

This strengths-based program is tailored to each student's unique learning needs and may utilize in-house literacy and numeracy experts, as well as learning accommodations to promote student independence for specific task demands.

The Academy program is appropriate for students struggling to produce work at grade level or living with a diagnosed learning difficulty or other condition that may affect their learning.



## National Math Expertise

Academy student Jackson Adams was awarded by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing for being the top student in the math contest for Grade 11, and in the top 35% of all Canadians in the 2021 Fermat Math Contest.

Jackson Adams '22



## Additional Support

Literacy and Numeracy experts work with teachers' classroom delivery and may provide small-group pull-out instruction for students requiring specialized or additional support.

## Support Through Graduation

Many students stay in the Academy program through Grade 12, utilizing additional supports and interventions that open doors to greater post-secondary education options.







## Collegiate Ratio

Grades 3–6: 16:1

Grades 7–8: 18:1

Grades 9–12: 20:1

GRADES 3–12

# Collegiate Program

It's the place to shine.

66

My child has a greater sense of who she is and who she wants to be. We have always said that Calgary Academy was an extension of our family and we will forever be grateful for their dedication and caring. We could not have done it without them.

**SHERRY WILSON**  
COLLEGIATE PARENT

Empowering students to challenge themselves through greater independence.

This grade-level program focuses on increased independence, enabling students to collaborate, challenge themselves, and engage richly with the surrounding world. Collegiate is appropriate for learners ready for grade-level pace and complexity of course content. Some Academy students may eventually transition to this program once they have shown growth in their skills and independence and require less support.



## International Theatre Acclaim

Collegiate student Thomas Dunsmore wrote, directed, and created the short play SOS, which was recognized by the International Theatre Society in 2021.

Thomas Dunsmore '21



## Creative Projects

Collegiate students regularly participate in highly engaging, project-based learning activities.

## Connect Time

Academy students in Grades 10-12 and Collegiate students in Grades 9-12 have a daily period to catch up on coursework, connect with their teacher for additional support, or work on passion projects.







**Blended+ Ratio**

**Grades 9-12: 20:1**

**GRADES 9-12**

# Blended+ Program

It's the place to belong.

“

The best part of Blended+ is the supportive community. The teachers are so supportive and help you as much as you need to succeed.

**TAI C.**  
**BLENDED+ STUDENT**

The Blended+ program fits our students' varying needs, interests, and lifestyles.

This program blends scheduled hybrid classes with mandatory in-person school days, off-site excursions, and personalized flex time—letting students choose where they learn and what they are working on.

Expert educators are available for individualized support throughout the week, and students can choose to spend their days learning at school or from home (or anywhere with an internet connection).

Students have full access to the extracurricular and Integrated Studies programming at Calgary

Academy.

This program is suitable for students looking for a more flexible school experience who may experience barriers to learning in traditional school settings.



## Competitive Athletes

Too often, competitive athletes must choose between their school and competition schedules. Blended+ allows students like Sascha to access her schoolwork wherever her snowboarding career takes her—even from the slopes!



## Off-Campus Excursions

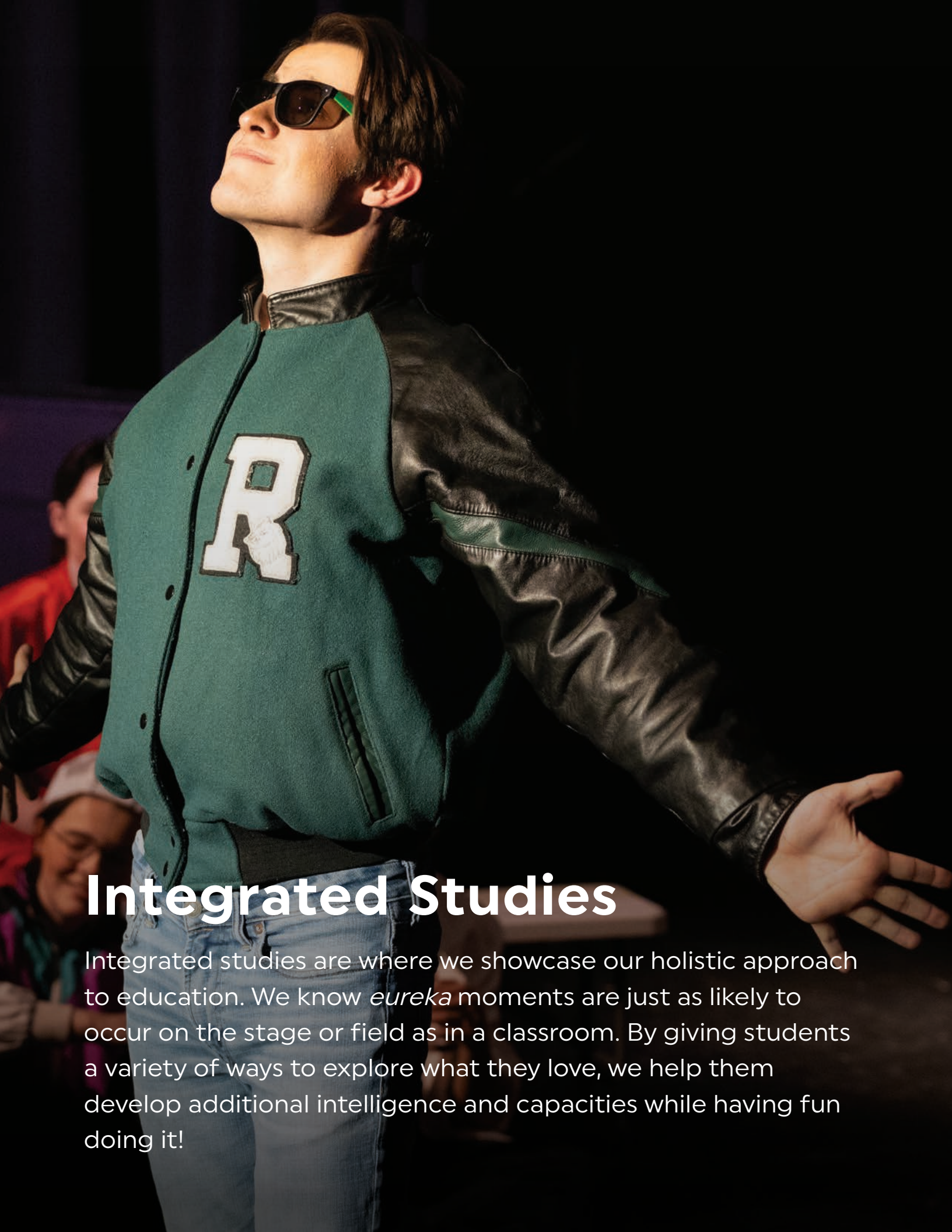
These are not your typical field trips. Blended+ students participate in highly immersive off-site trips such as the Biodiversity program at the Calgary Zoo or field work at the University of Calgary's Biogeoscience Institute.

## Flexible Learning

A core part of Blended+ is its "anytime, anywhere" flexibility, which allows students to access classes through a mix of live online classes or recorded asynchronous sessions. Students can meet with their teachers at any time during the school day for support in person or online.







# Integrated Studies

Integrated studies are where we showcase our holistic approach to education. We know *eureka* moments are just as likely to occur on the stage or field as in a classroom. By giving students a variety of ways to explore what they love, we help them develop additional intelligence and capacities while having fun doing it!

## Where passion and purpose collide.

All Integrated Studies are taught by subject-matter experts in specialized learning spaces for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

### Integrated Studies vary by grade and may include:

 Art	 Construction Lab	 Culinary Arts
 Digital Studies	 Drama	 Guitar
 Leadership	 Music	 Outdoor Education
 Photography	 Robotics	 Spanish
 Sports Medicine	 Wellness	

## Prioritizing Connections.

Academy, Collegiate, and on-site Blended+ students in the same grade combine for physical education, Integrated Studies, lunchtime, and breaks. This gives students a larger community to build friendships within and ensures our students can connect with peers across grades and programs.

## Senior School.

Grades 10–12 students select two options for the full semester. In Grade 10, one option must be physical education or outdoor education (which you can read about in the following pages). All Senior School students will also complete the Alberta Education-mandated Career and Life Management (CALM) course and our comprehensive in-house career preparation program.



You can read detailed blogs on our Integrated Studies programs on our website.





# Physical and Outdoor Education

Coaching students to develop their physical competence and confidence so they can be active for their entire lives requires nurturing their belief in themselves, exposing them to activities outside of their comfort zones, and building their functional fitness—all while having fun!

## **Empowering healthy minds and bodies.**

Lifelong wellness begins at a young age. The physical education program is designed to inspire students to become active while being a safe place to take risks, try new activities, and find their passions.

### **Building Physical Foundations**

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will engage in a variety of physical activities that will help them discover how they can move their bodies through space, build healthy relationships, and learn about foods that help the body grow. Our physical education and wellness program teaches students to communicate personal boundaries through words and actions while supporting their financial literacy as we play games that incorporate their understanding of the value of Canadian money in different contexts. A holistic approach creates a strong foundation for students' understanding of overall wellness.

### **Grades 7–8**

Students in Grades 7-8 are beginning their journey towards competition on school teams. We foster their physical literacy in physical education by introducing a wider range of activities in different environments, exposing them to many options to join recreational games and traditional sports. With the growth from early elementary, students in Junior School will be able to expand their movement patterns to apply them in various stages of life.

### **Grades 9–12**

Feeling empowered to make healthy decisions across the lifespan starts with healthy habits. In Grades 9–12, our students begin to choose their own adventures in physical education, outdoor education, sports performance and sports medicine courses. Specialists for activities like golf, yoga, boxing, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing are often invited to teach in their areas of expertise.



**GRADES 7-12**



# KNIGHTS ATHLETICS

## **It's the place to achieve greatness.**

We believe that athletics is a natural complement to classroom achievement. From jumping for a rebound, scoring the winning goal, or pushing their limits on a cross-country course, every sport allows our students to learn self-awareness, dedication, and camaraderie.

We are part of the Calgary Independent Schools Athletics Association (CISAA). Though we strive to build competitive teams, the true measures of success are the skillsets and confidence our students develop and the number of athletes who continue their involvement in sports after they leave our school.

Students can participate in the following sports:

## Fall Sports

Early September to Mid-November



Golf



Cross-country Running



Volleyball



## Winter Sports

Early November to Mid-March



Basketball



## Spring Sports

Mid-March to Early June



Badminton



Floor Hockey



Football\*



Soccer



Track and Field



Rugby\*

\* Shared team with Springbank.





# Opportunities

**Grow. Lead. Inspire. Perform. Play. Learn.**

Leadership councils, Junior and Senior drama productions, rock and classical bands, in-school ski and snowboard clubs, international travel trips, queer-student alliance groups, and many other interest-based clubs ensure there are lots of opportunities for students to pursue their interests, talents, and passions.

No two children's experiences at Calgary Academy will be exactly alike.

## Drama Productions

Grades 5–12 students can join our extra-curricular drama productions each year, regardless of their in-school Integrated Studies selection. We offer a senior production for students in Grades 9–12 and a junior production for students in Grades 5–8.



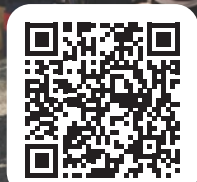
## Student Leadership

Through QUEST Council (Kindergarten–Grade 8) and CASTLE (Calgary Academy Student Leadership) (Grades 9–12) students can share their voices and have ownership in decision-making at the school. All students are encouraged to participate in CASTLE to shape school decisions, bring about change, and build stronger connections within our community.



## CASSC

Grades 5–9 students receive coaching in big mountain skiing and snowboarding. At Lake Louise, students learn freestyle tricks in the terrain parks while experiencing world-class resort powder and moguls. Grades 10–12 are allowed to shadow the coaches for a season in our mentorship program. After our program, Grades 10–12 students are eligible for certification as Level 1 coaches.



## International Travel Studies

Grades 10–12 students can participate in the International Travel Studies program. Whether it's building schools in Laos or helping with sustainable agriculture at a Chinese orphanage, these experiences empower students to put the REACH principles into action on a global scale.

## Band

Extra-curricular music ensembles vary annually by student interest and may include:

- ❑ Knights Band (Grades 7–12)
- ❑ Glee Choir (Grades 4–6)
- ❑ Knights Choir (Grades 7–12)
- ❑ Rock Band (Grades 9–12)







# Support Through the Transition

Changing schools is a big step for students and their families, and our support begins the moment your child is accepted to Calgary Academy.



## New Family Welcome

Before summer begins, all new families are invited to New Family Welcome, a one-day information and connection-building event designed to welcome your family into the Calgary Academy community.

## Summer Connection

In late August, families receive an introductory phone call from their teacher and an invitation to see their classroom the day before school starts. This lets new students and families get familiar with the school facility before the excitement of the first day.





## Fall Welcome

Each September, the entire school's students, families, and staff are invited to a day of fun, friendship, and games! A mix of orientation events and community-building activities creates an engaging evening that kicks off the school year.

## School Council of Calgary Academy (SCOCA)

Community building isn't just for our students. Parents are automatically granted membership in SCOCA when they join Calgary Academy. Composed of parents, staff, and student representatives, SCOCA meets five times throughout the year to share whole-school information, recognize accomplishments, and build community. SCOCA also organizes parent volunteer opportunities. Elections for the executive occur every spring.

**LEARN  
MORE**



## Arlette Speaker Series

The Arlette Speaker Series is a parent education program sponsored by former Calgary Academy parents Dr. John & Ildi Arlette. Past topics include inclusion in the classroom, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, the future of learning, assessment information, and cyberbullying and social media.





# The Next Steps

We can't wait to meet you and your child!

## The CA Candidate

The base criteria for admission to Calgary Academy are average to above-average intelligence and no primary social, emotional, or behavioural needs requiring support. Cognitive functioning is typically determined by the administration of a psychological-educational assessment by a registered psychologist. The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) emphasizes that diagnosed learning disabilities are different from intellectual disabilities. For more information regarding learning disabilities, please consult the LDAC's website. Additionally, applicants' learning needs and academic skill levels must be similar to those of our existing student groupings.

## Visit Us

New families often reflect that they knew Calgary Academy was the right choice for their family the moment they walked through our doors. We hold parent/guardian tours regularly and would love to show you what we do. Our tours include an overview of our programs and the chance to see our school in action.

## Apply Online

Visit [calgaryacademy.com](http://calgaryacademy.com) to complete your online application. To complete the admissions application, students in Grades 3–12 who are ideal candidates for the Academy program must provide the results of a Psychoeducational Assessment that is no more than 18 months old. Should it be determined that a child in the Collegiate or Blended+ programs requires classroom or exam accommodations, parents will be notified to submit the results of a Psychoeducational Assessment that is no more than 18 months old.

## Assessment and Interviews

Following the online application and receipt of the admissions deposit, the Admissions Committee will review your child's educational history and other relevant documents to determine eligibility for the Early Years, Academy, Collegiate, or Blended+ programs. A Student Needs Interview is conducted if we believe our school is the best option for your child's success.

## We'll be in Touch

The Admissions Committee considers all your child's learning needs and history when determining an appropriate program placement. You will be informed by a member of the Admissions team if an offer of admission is extended or if a placement cannot be offered.



# Extras

Calgary Academy offers additional programs to ensure families are supported.

## Before and After Care

Child's Play Canada is a licensed organization based in Calgary that operates the Before and After program at Calgary Academy. The program is available to students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, and is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. outside of school hours, as well as on Professional Learning days. More information about Before and After Care is available on the [Calgary Academy website](#).

## Bursaries

The Calgary Academy Parents Association (CAPA) strives to provide students with demonstrated financial need support to attend Calgary Academy. Applications to CAPA can be found on its website, and should be made following an admissions application to Calgary Academy. For additional information, and to access forms, please visit the [CAPA website](#).

## Busing

Many students at Calgary Academy arrive to school each day via the bus. Transportation is available through First Student, which operates 15 routes across all areas of the city of Calgary, and many surrounding communities. Bus routes are redesigned each year to minimize ride times. Busing is an option for families to select during enrolment, and is available at an additional costs. Additional information, fees, and route information is available on the [Calgary Academy website](#).



## TAKE A 360° VIRTUAL TOUR!

Calgary Academy currently offers over 105,500 sq. ft. (with an expansion on the horizon!) for our learners to surpass their potential. The moment you pass through our front gates, you'll be greeted by spectacular Rocky Mountain views and be surrounded by a sprawling forest and athletic field, both home to numerous outdoor activities for all our students.

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To learn more and apply: [calgaryacademy.com](https://calgaryacademy.com)



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