



## Academic Program Information

- **Kindergarten Program**
- **Elementary School Program**
- **Middle School Program**
- **Athletic Program**
- **Art Program**
- **Music Program**
- **Language Program**

Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

# KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## General Information

### ***Age Requirements***

Children registering for Kindergarten at WMEMS must be 5 years-old as of December 31.

### ***When Do I Register?***

Because WMEMS is committed to maintaining small class sizes, there are a limited number of spaces available in the kindergarten programs. It is recommended that families apply for admission as early as possible. Applications and accompanying fees may be mailed or dropped off in person to the WMEMS location you are applying to.

### ***Tuition***

Full day Kindergarten \$3990 Half day Kindergarten \$2365

\*Please see Fee Information and Payment Timetable on the registration page of our website for additional fees and payment deadlines.

## Kindergarten Program Highlights

### ***WMEMS Kindergarten Programs Offer the Following:***

- Fun and colourful classrooms complete with excellent instructional aids, books, art supplies, educational toys and musical instruments
- Organized academic, artistic, musical and recreational centres for individual and group learning
- Program balances structured learning activities and play oriented learning activities
- Daily devotional and prayer time
- Computer studies that integrate other areas of learning in a modern computer lab
- French and German instruction begin in Kindergarten
- Comprehensive music program integrating music instruction with classroom themes

- Child-centred art program focusing on individual creativity and strengths using various artistic media
- Strong language arts and math programs meeting children at their own developmental levels
- Excellent physical education program focusing on fun and fitness

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Kindergarten**

**1. How many students are in a Kindergarten class?** Class size is limited to 22 students.

### **2. Do you offer both a full time and half time Kindergarten program?**

Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary and Middle Schools offer both a full time Kindergarten program and a half time Kindergarten program. All students arrive at 8:45 am. The half-time students are dismissed at 12:00 pm and the full-time students are dismissed at 3:30 pm.

### **3. How do the children generally adapt to the full day schedule?**

When a program is developmentally appropriate and primarily activity based, children quickly adapt to the full day program. Our afternoons include a short “rest” time for the first six to eight weeks, after which we find it is no longer needed. Eleven to twelve hours of sleep at night are optimum for this age.

**4. Will the full time children be more advanced academically than the half time students when they advance to grade one?** The answer to this question really depends on your child’s development and what your child is ready to learn at a given time. There will always be a wide range of skill levels entering kindergarten and also entering grade one. Grade one classes will always be a combination of both full time and half time students.

### **5. Will the full time program cover more curriculum than the half time program?**

Both the morning and afternoon Kindergarten classes follow the outcomes as outlined in the Manitoba curriculum. Curriculums are covered in the morning with opportunities in the afternoon for more activities that enhance subjects like Social Studies, Science, Math, ELA, Health, and languages.

## **6. What does a typical full day of kindergarten at WMEMS include?**

We try to plan so that each day is a balance of teacher-initiated activities, including small and large group instruction, and free choice time where the children choose their activity centres. It also includes recess, snack, lunch, music, and physical education. We follow the provincial curriculum, as set by Manitoba Education and Training. In Kindergarten children also learn “school” routines and expectations. These include functioning cooperatively in a larger group, following instructions, and developing social skills.

## **7. Do you teach reading?**

We have a very strong reading instruction program at WMEMS, which emphasizes the attainment of a high level of reading skills by the end of grade one. In kindergarten we introduce reading instruction that will continue in grade one. We develop vocabulary, phonemic awareness, alphabet phonics and visual skills. There are many experiences with stories, poetry, drama, play and songs intended to develop an awareness of and appreciation for language and literature. We encourage reading in the home with our home reading program. We provide opportunities for children to “write” using their own invented spelling. We find many children are eager to feel like “readers” in kindergarten and will become beginning readers with instruction. Midway through the year we introduce literacy centres and a guided reading program where children read and respond to literature at their own level. Others are not quite ready to read but will have a solid base with which to proceed to grade one and experience success there.

## **8. What distinguishes our program as a Christian program?**

We try to nurture the spirit in a variety of ways. We begin each day with a devotional time where the children hear Bible stories from the Old and New testaments as well as devotional stories based on Christian themes. We include a voluntary individual prayer time in order to foster a personal relationship with God. Music and literature content includes Christian pieces. Christian values and ideas are informally incorporated into daily activities and lessons as opportunities arise. Kindergarten children participate in school Chapel services in the gym each Friday morning. Parents are always welcome to attend.

## **9. How do I know if my child is ready for kindergarten?**

Most children are ready for kindergarten instruction in the year when they turn five. They are interested in writing their name, and in learning the alphabet. They enjoy learning and playing in a group setting such as a nursery school or a Sunday school. They have developed an attention span that allows them to listen and contribute in a short group activity. Others will mostly want to play at their self-initiated activities and show little interest in structured activities. They may have difficulty separating from a parent. Because children are such individuals it is difficult to characterize the “ready” or “unready” child. Some children benefit from a delayed start in their formal schooling. They may then experience greater success in meeting grade expectations in Kindergarten and in the years to come. They may also develop more confidence in

themselves as well as a more positive attitude toward learning. The parents know the child best and any doubts should be considered and discussed further.

### **10. Do kindergarten children go out for recess?**

Kindergarten children are included in outdoor recess along with the children in grades 1-5. This includes 15 minutes in the morning and afternoon as well as 30 minutes at lunchtime. Although they have access to the whole playing field, a separate area with a sandbox, and climbing structure is set aside for children in kindergarten and grade one only. Two staff members are always on supervision duty outside during recess. Kindergarten teachers go out with the students every recess for the first week or so until they feel comfortable with the situation and routine.

### **11. How often do the students receive Physical Education?**

At the Bedson Campus, full time students have Phys Ed classes every day, alternating between the morning and afternoon. Half time students have Phys Ed every second day in the morning. At the Katherine Friesen Campus students have Phys Ed classes 4 times during a school cycle – 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. The Kindergarten Physical Education program has the students participating in activities that are meaningful in developing basic movement skills. These skills fall under the main categories of transport, manipulation, and balance. Warm ups, skill building, and many transport games are used to keep the students active in class. Students in Kindergarten will also experience opportunities to problem solve playground situations, learn how to interact positively with others, and connect personal safety with empathy for others. They will learn to role-play when someone is excluded, develop sense of personal space for self and others, and recognize social cues, which indicate a need for caring.

### **12. Where do they eat their lunch?**

All students eat lunch in their classrooms with designated seating. Two staff members supervise by circulating around the classrooms. Two older student monitors are also assigned to the kindergarten class each day to help and supervise as required. WMEMS is a nut free school. This includes both the Katherine Friesen Campus and Bedson Campus.

### **13. How is information technology included in the Kindergarten program?**

The kindergarten classroom is equipped with a computer station, which they may use independently, or with a partner as a learning centre. It includes a combination of educational software programs and interactive stories. In addition, kindergarten students are scheduled to go to the computer lab approximately twice a cycle for a more structured experience. The Kindergarten room at the Katherine Friesen Campus is equipped with interactive SMART Board technology. The SMART Board is used for daily attendance, calendar activities, daily messages, interactive math and ELA games and media viewing. Students are trained to use the SMART Board and have many opportunities to use throughout the day.

**14. Do kindergarten children receive second language instruction?**

Kindergarten children receive instruction in beginning vocabulary and conversational phrases in both French and German. This is a short period each day and is often incorporated into daily routines (i.e. counting on the calendar in either language).

**15. My child is reading already. How will he/she be challenged?**

Some children begin the year reading. Others excel at fine motor tasks, mathematical pursuits, in the gym, or at social interactions. Each child has strengths and weaknesses coming into our program. If your child is already reading, we will determine the level they are at and endeavor to challenge them and take them further in their reading skills.

## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

### **Classroom**

- High academic standards and small class sizes
- Caring and nurturing teachers and support staff
- Guided reading and writing program allows students to work at an appropriate independent working level and to build on their successes
- Teachers provide many hands-on activities as well as practice on paper and computers to develop strong math skills

### **Support Staff and Teachers**

- Skilled, enthusiastic and caring teaching and support staff
- Committed to providing a program that ensures students receive the literacy and numeracy skills that are needed
- Specialties in computers, religious instruction, music and languages
- United in commitment to integrate Christian faith with teaching in the classroom and on the playground

### **Christian Education**

- Daily morning devotionals (approximately 20 minutes)
- Weekly chapels where students worship with staff
- Children study the Bible and the application of scriptural principles in formal Christian Education classes
- Participation in regular giving projects (MCC School Kits, Operation Christmas Child, Winnipeg Harvest)

### **Comprehensive Music Program**

- Features Orff instrument instruction
- Instruction in Recorder starting in grade 4
- Students take part in providing music, singing, skits and poetry for weekly chapels

- Yearly spring musical and Christmas concert
- Performance choir and hand bell choir
- Opportunity for children to take private piano and violin lessons during school day

### **Athletic Program**

- Excellent Physical Education Program focusing on fun and fitness
- Enthusiastic, energetic and creative teachers
- Daily intramurals, Runner's Club, Terry Fox Run
- WMEMS has partnered with the Manitoba Christian Schools Association and Pembina Trails School Division, in order to participate at various levels of appropriate competition.

### **Languages**

- French language instruction continues through all grades
- German language program continues from Kindergarten to grade 6 (grade 5 at Bedson)

### **Computer**

- Modern computer lab
- Computer studies integrate other areas of study (math, language arts, social studies, and art) using word processing, multi-media presentations, internet research and more

### **Library**

- Thousands of well chosen books in a fun environment that encourages love of reading
- Careful consideration given to the choice of books in the library
- The school library policy outlines the criteria used for selecting materials for the library and details the procedures to be followed in the event that materials are challenged as to their appropriateness



**Miscellaneous**

- Spirit events: Family Picnic, Winter Carnival, Storybook Dress-up Day, Milk Energy Week
- Curriculum Enhancement: MTYP, Festival of Learning, Read-a-thon
- Leadership Opportunities: classroom monitoring, reading buddies, playground buddies and patrols
- Strong emphasis on peaceful play and interaction in classrooms and on the playground

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

**Classroom** - Small class sizes (maximum of 24) and high level of teacher contact and supervision - Committed educators who genuinely care about their students - Teachers and Support staff are united in their commitment to integrate Christian faith with teaching in all school activities

**Christian Education** - Daily devotionals (approximately 20 minutes per day) - Weekly Chapels - Students take part in providing music, singing, skits or poetry. Guest speakers, films or groups are frequently featured and parents are always welcome to attend. - Students study the Bible and the application of scriptural principles in formal Christian Education classes. - Christian education is a way of being with and relating to children and young people so that through opportunities for social, academic, and spiritual growth, they are encouraged to accept themselves as persons of worth and purpose.

**Computer Studies** - MAC computer lab - Integrated with academic studies using word processing, multimedia presentations, spreadsheets, internet research, digital photos, videos, iMovie and more

**Music Program** - Comprehensive band program - Students choose their instruments with assistance from the band director - A variety of music styles are learned including jazz, classical and popular - Emphasis on posture, breathing, embouchure, fingering and music reading - Opportunities for students to sing in the performance choir - WMEMS Singers - Students have several opportunities throughout the year to perform in chapels and at various school events

**Art Program** - Focuses on the individual student's desire to create and appreciate various artistic styles and media - Art at WMEMS enhances students' overall education. Studies have shown that Art education increases self-esteem, teaches teamwork, improves motivation, hones discipline and sharpens problem-solving skills.

**Practical Arts Program** - Includes Digital Arts, Outdoor Education and Drama. Students will be exposed to each of these three streams in each year of middle school.

**French Language Program** - AIM Language Learning Program - Educational French trip to Quebec every second year.

**Quebec Trip** WMEMS has spread its educational wings to the great beyond! Our school has opened the way for learning outside of the school. Every two years, WMEMS has planned a trip to Quebec for grade 7 and 8 students. The main purpose of this trip is to encourage students to use the French language skills they have learned as much as possible while having a fun filled educational adventure. It is exciting for students to learn about another culture right in our own country. Vive le Francais!

**Outdoor Education Fall & Winter Camps** Outdoor Education Camp is designed to fulfill several objectives - expose students to the enjoyment of outdoor recreational activities, - build relationships among our students and staff through shared experiences of play, learning, and worship.

The fall camp is held in September for 2 days to kick off the school year.

The three day winter camp is held in January at Camp Cedarwood, a Youth For Christ camp in the Whiteshell. We have used their facility in the past, and are excited about the programs they offer. It is a modern facility with flexible accommodations, numerous winter recreation options and a reputation for great food. The campers will be involved in a variety of activities including: worship times - shelter building and survival skills - snowshoeing - cross- country skiing - tube sliding - sleigh rides - crafts, and good-food.

**Athletic Program** - Instructors profess that "your will is your #1 skill" motivating students to strive for excellence against the Manitoba physical education curriculum outcomes - Frequent phys-ed classes and daily intramurals - Several competitive sports teams and Runner's Club - Sports programs are inclusive - all who want to participate are given the opportunity .

**Miscellaneous** - Evenly dispersed, short breaks in the day - Differentiated instruction and authentic assessment practices - Student lounge - Yearbook produced by students and staff advisors - Curriculum Enhancement: MTYP, Discovery Fair, Speakers, Musical Groups, Field Trips - Student Council, Athletic Council

## ATHLETIC PROGRAM

WMEMS has developed an inviting culture of sport participation, inclusion, and achievement. Several factors have created momentum for these athletic endeavors.

- Physical Education at WMEMS is a *celebrated* subject. Students love participating in activities whether they are traditional, like soccer or football, or more novel like student creations of dodgeball.
- *Our intramural program* has shown significant growth in popularity amongst middle school students over the last few years. Students have taken leadership roles on our athletic council (first year), and have organized teams according to a school-wide house-team system.
- *Teachers and parents volunteers* play a pivotal role in our program. Teachers and gifted parents extend their expertise to coach numerous inter-school teams. The parent association and Diamond Athletics, have also sponsored the purchase of heart rate monitors, a technological tool for Physical Education that has been very effective in reaching goal-setting and motivational targets.
- *Inter-school competition* has grown. WMEMS has partnered with both the Manitoba Christian Schools Association and Pembina Trails School Division in order to participate at various levels of appropriate competition. These opportunities for sport have made the inclusion of athletes and the development of skills a BIG part of WMEMS's unique fabric.

*The Runners Club* is a shining example of the significance of sport at WMEMS. Back in 1999, our school had 7 diligent runners from middle school. Growth and excitement steadily increased, requiring the program to evolve. Today, over 80 grade 2-5 students are running three times a week during the noon hour break until Father's Day in June. In addition, approximately 30 middle schoolers (and 5 alumni) practice before and after school in preparation for several upcoming events.

Our middle school students are benefiting from a wide range of inter-school, intramural, and physical education pursuits. Watch the WMEMS Eagles continue to soar in sport as *participation, inclusion and achievement* continue to propel the value of athletics forward.

## **ART PROGRAM**

God has designed humans with a desire to create and an ability to appreciate the beauty around them. This forms the basis for the Art program at WMEMS.

Art classes allow students to participate in activities that are very different from the structured academic classes. It allows them to develop both artistic skills and the ability to appreciate artists and works of art. All of this is conveyed within the context of the world around them.

The Art program at WMEMS enhances the student's overall education. Studies have shown that art education increases self-esteem, teaches teamwork, improves motivation, hones discipline, and sharpens problem-solving skills. Quality art education also contributes to an increase in academic performance.

Creating within creation is a part of the Art world at WMEMS.

## **MUSIC PROGRAM**

Music is one of our specialties and one of the things that we are well known for. Students enjoy a musical experience from Kindergarten on. Our reputation is well earned and supported by brand new music facilities at both campuses. Thanks to a generous donation by one of our schools founders (Katherine Friesen) we have been able to invest well over \$100 000.00 into our music facilities over the past two years. This investment will allow us to continue to provide excellence in the area of music for years to come.

The grade 1-6 music program is based on the guidelines of the Manitoba curriculum. We use Orff instruments, recorders, a wide array of percussion instruments, our bodies and movement to explore a variety of different musical styles.

Grade 5 and 6 students are also given an opportunity to play in a handbell choir and spend time learning to play guitar. Our grade 1-3 choir and 4-6 choir are featured at the school's opening program celebration in October, as well as at Christmas concerts in December and a spring musical put on in May.

These are wonderful times of working together in the context of a larger musical whole. Music is an integral part of student life at WMEMS.

## **LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

### **Our French Program**

Learning a foreign language opens many doors to the future. Having fun while learning opens those doors much easier. WMEMS, directed by the Manitoba French society and Curriculum, has French instruction for Grades K - 8.

Through music, various forms of media and literature, role playing and skits, the students enjoy learning French. We create a light and exciting atmosphere, encouraging oral communication, and promoting skills in writing, reading and listening.

Learning a second language is important, especially in our country. Our French program inspires students to look beyond the doors of the school. By studying French, our students build confidence and competence in the language, they improve comprehension skills, and nurture an understanding of the importance of the French language in Canada.

### **Our German Program**

The aim of our German instruction is to acquaint the learner with the basic tenets of the language. This includes what it sounds like, what it looks like, and how the words fit into a sentence. Simple vocabulary of commonly used topics is studied. A vital part of this program involves taking a look at German culture. Upon completion of this program, students will come away with a general knowledge of German.

At the Katherine Friesen Campus German is taught from K - 6, while at the Bedson Campus it is taught from K - 5.