



Junior High Program Guide

Getting to know Fort McMurray Christian School

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

Fort McMurray Christian School is an **interdenominational Christian school** operating as an alternative program of the Fort McMurray Public School District. Our curriculum meets Alberta Education guidelines, and our students write the same academic competency exams as students in all other public schools in the city. We offer classes for children from our Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) through to grade nine.

Our mission is to:

- **Provide** students with an education based on Scripture. The Christian perspective is integrated into every aspect of study.
- **Acknowledge** the Lordship of Christ and to develop the students' understanding of their own relationship to God as well as their relationship to others and Creation.
- **Provide** an education that allows children to reach their potential academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.
- **Direct** students in the development of Christ-like character.
- **Prepare** students to be of service in the community.



Parents lay the foundations of the Christian life in their homes. We help partner with parents to help expand your child's horizons, deepen their insights, develop their abilities, and guide them along the path that ultimately leads to wisdom.

Christian education is a careful training of each dimension of the child – physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, social, and moral – with unity and consistency. We are excited for the opportunity to partner with you on this journey.

Stay in Touch!



Website - <https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>



Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/FMChristianRoyals/>



Twitter - @ChristianFMPSD



Instagram - fm_christian_school



REMIND (Whole School) -

go to <https://www.remind.com/join> and enter the code @kaa2ke



Office Phone - 780.743.1079



Office Email - sorina.saayman@fmps.ab.ca

Meet Our Teaching Staff!



Bobbi Compton - Bobbi moved to Fort McMurray in 1996 along with her husband and two young children, and soon after began her teaching career at Fort McMurray Christian School. In 2000, she joined the Fort McMurray Public School Division and served in many roles, from grade three teacher to Vice Principal, mostly at Dr. Clark School; as well as obtaining a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. In the fall of 2020, she returned to Fort McMurray Christian School as the new Principal. When not at school, Bobbi can be found with her Border Terrier Lily, her ever-present companion. Bobbi and her husband love to spend time with their adult children, which now includes a daughter-in-law, as well as getting away to the lake at every opportunity.

Meet Our Teaching Staff!



Daniel Baseley - is a husband and father of one young son, and first relocated to Fort McMurray in 2007. He previously resided in Japan for five years - longer than originally intended, due to the chance meeting of his future spouse at a train station! Daniel has also lived in the United States, Barbados, the U.K, and Tanzania. Before coming to FM Christian School in 2018, he previously taught at Westwood Community High School and Walter and Gladys Hill Elementary. Daniel holds a

B.A. in History (U. of Winnipeg) as well as B. Ed. (U. of Toronto) and Master of Educational Leadership degrees (U. of Alberta). Aside from his administrative duties as the school's first Vice-Principal, Daniel enjoys teaching Social Studies and Japanese. As a Christian educator, he also relishes his role in helping students find their place in God's Kingdom. Outside of school, Daniel can usually be found at school-related events, walking his dog, or exercising at the gym.

Lois Ann Emberley - is a wife and mom of two school-aged children, Lois Ann has been involved in many aspects of FM Christian School since 2004. Lois Ann has been a classroom teacher, special education coordinator, education coach, and curriculum coordinator all with FM Christian School. She moved to Fort McMurray in 2004 to teach grade 5/6, and found a love of both the community as well as the drummer at church. Returning to the classroom in the fall of 2019 as the Junior High Language Arts teacher has been both a great challenge and a blessing to her work in furthering the Kingdom. Lois Ann has a BA in Sociology and New Testament History as well as a B. Ed (after degree), both from the University of Calgary. When she is not at the hockey rink with either of her children, you can probably find her on the dirtbike track, mountain biking or cross country skiing.



Amanda Gillies - Born and raised in Southeast Africa to missionary parents, Amanda moved to Canada in her late teens and attended the University of Alberta. There, she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and her Bachelor of Education with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Math. She started her career with FMPSD at Composite High School, where she taught chemistry, math, and general science. In 2017 she moved to the Christian School and currently teaches grades 7-9 Science and Math. When she's not teaching, Amanda can be found at the gym, on the trails, or spending time with her loving husband, Jonathan, and their two young children.



What is a Royal?

At Fort McMurray Christian School, our team name is the Royals!



This name originates from Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.



We also have a wonderful mascot that you will see out and about at our many school functions.

Loyal the Royal Lion!

What Makes Our School Special?

A Faith-Filled Worldview

Fort McMurray Christian School is a place where students, staff, and parents work together to support all children on their Christian path. While we do have a class in each grade specifically devoted to studying the Bible, a Christian Worldview also flows throughout all of our classes. While studying the same Alberta curriculum as every other public school in the province, the staff at our school also use **Throughlines**, unique class **Storylines**, **Deep Hopes**, and **FLEx** activities to help our students be their best.

What are the Throughlines?

Staff at Fort McMurray Christian School connect Throughlines through the provincial curriculum as one way to weave our faith into every subject. These Throughlines are all qualities we hope our students develop as they grow.

God Worshippers
Idolatry Discerners
Justice Seekers

Community Builders
Creation Enjoyers
Beauty Creators
Order Discoverers

Image Reflectors
Servant Workers
Earth Keepers

What is a Storyline?

A Storyline is a thematic way for teachers and students to learn together, and deepen their own personal relationships with The Almighty. Storylines help create “a powerful and compelling vision of the Kingdom that creates a longing and a desire within every student to play their part in God’s unfolding Story of Redemption.” This overarching focus helps forge many more connections between what students are doing at school and their lives at home.

What is a Deep Hope?

A Deep Hope is what we as teachers passionately hope your children learn while being a part of our school community. When they leave our classes, these are the lessons we hope they have stored away in their hearts and minds.

What is FLEx?

Formational Learning Experiences are opportunities for students to apply what they have learned in their classes. FLEx activities are real activities that solve real-world problems, thereby enhancing our communities

What do Storylines, Deep Hope, and FLEx activities look like in our school?

Koinonia in the Brokenness (Grade 7-9 Language Arts)

Verse(s): Matthew 11:28

“Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

Isaiah 53: 5

“He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed by our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”

Song: By His Wounds (Glory Revealed - 2007)



Deep Hope

We live in a world of immense *brokenness*, and our young people are exposed to this more than ever. It is my deep hope that the young people I interact with will become believers who know, believe and demonstrate that all people’s lives matter. Regardless of the differences we have in our community, we all matter to God.

Koinonia is a transliterated form of the Greek word κοινωνία, which refers to concepts such as: communion or fellowship, joint participation, the share which one has in anything, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution (Wikipedia). The essential element of *koinonia* is participation—Christ is what connects us (Biblestudytools.com). How can we show the world God’s love if we are not in connection and relationship with the *broken*, the hurting, and the healed?

FLEx - Real work with Real people, with Real problems

In discovering where and what brokenness looks like in our world, we are naturally wired to step in and help. In Ephesians 2:10 we are called to be the hands and feet of God, to do the work of God here and now. Students in junior high will become active participants in creating Shalom and community in:

- offering leadership in our school
- participating in The Edmonton Mustard Seed Demo Crew
- offering their time to social profit organizations in Fort McMurray like A Safe Haven For Adolescent Mothers (ASHFAM), the Soup Kitchen, and the Salvation Army

What do Storylines, Deep Hope, and FLEx activities look like in our school?

Grade 8/9 Storyline - “As our best selves, we are as sceptres held in His hand, surmounted by the Globus Cruciger of The Almighty.”

Colossians 3:23, 24 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.



Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Proverbs 12:14 - A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

Deep Hope

We hope we will live with the understanding that we always have God’s attention. As Christians, we are all challenged to live as our best selves, thereby acting as “sceptres” of God in his kingdom.



FLEx

This year students have assumed the role of class leaders during Indoor Recesses, designing their own activities for classes in either Division 1 (Grades 1-3) or Division 2 (Grades 4, 5).

They are also participating in various charitable events concerning the larger community. One example of this is the Mustard Seed organization’s youth outreach program in Edmonton.

What do Storylines, Deep Hope, and FLEx activities look like in our school?

Science/Math Storyline - “Wise and Ready”

Verse: "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." - Matthew 10:16 (ESV).

Deep hope: Research shows that most people make a decision about their faith very early in life. Thus, our deep hope is that we will prepare young Christians for all aspects of life, most notably the importance of a well-reasoned foundation for their faith. To achieve this, we address the doubts and concerns that students have about science and other current issues so they have the tools they need to navigate life beyond the middle school years energized by a strong faith, a living (deep) hope, and love in action.

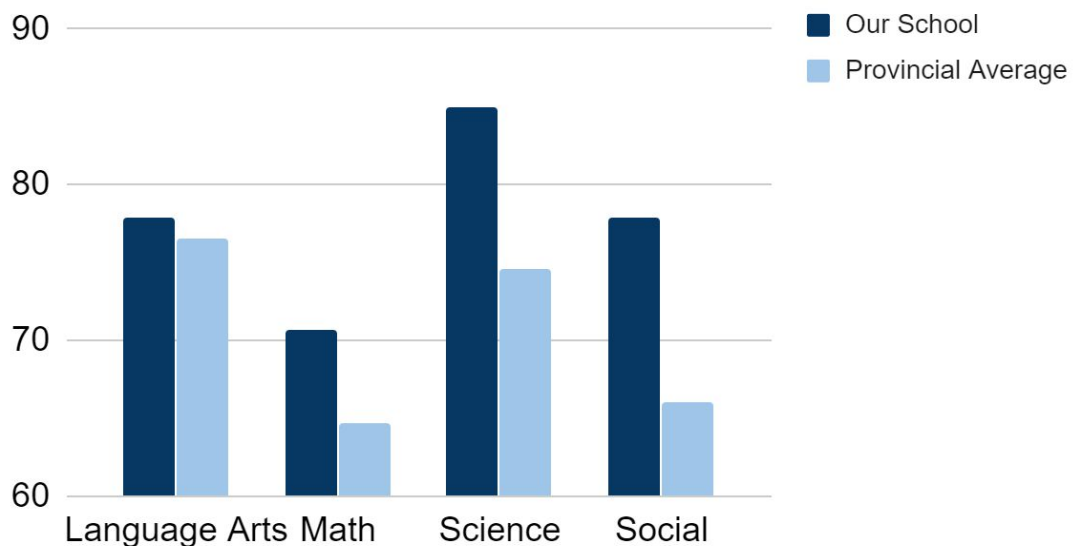


Why Choose Fort McMurray Christian School?

Academics

Fort McMurray Christian School has an established history of strong academic achievement, with regard to the Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Tests. Over the past three years, the school has scored well above the provincial average in all subject areas tested, including Mathematics, Social, Science, and Language Arts. We also placed 76th out of 853 schools in the entire province on the 2019 Fraser report.

Percentage of students getting an acceptable mark on the Provincial Achievement Test over the last 3 years.



Worship Arts and Leadership

Fort McMurray Christian School has developed a unique course that builds capacity and understanding of worship for our junior high students. Worship Arts and Leadership began in the fall of 2019 after junior high students expressed an interest in playing a more active role in our school worship times.

Students who register in Worship Arts and Leadership can do so in one of three streams: music, technology and the arts. Each stream develops projects and contributions to worship that are a meaningful reflection of their understanding of the role that worship plays in our calling as Christians.

Why Choose Fort McMurray Christian School?

Safe and Caring Environment

Parents know that their children are safe and cared for at Fort McMurray Christian School. We are consistently rated above provincial averages by parents, with regard to creating a safe and caring school environment. We strive to follow Jesus' command to love one another in all we do.

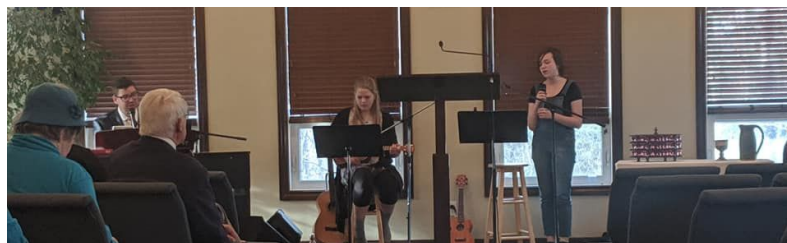
Matthew 22:36-40 - *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Since we are also one of only two schools in Fort McMurray, that house both elementary and junior high grades, our students are able to grow and work together. Most importantly, our junior high students are able to work with younger kids and act as leaders in our school community.

Worship Assemblies

At Fort McMurray Christian School, our weekly Worship Assemblies have become an important part of our community. During this time, students are able to praise God together as a school and join together in prayer. These assemblies also host guest speakers from the city, including many pastors from local churches. Classes take turns hosting, which gives students an opportunity to help lead worship. Some of our junior high students even apply what they practice during our Worship Assemblies to help worship teams at their own churches!



Why Choose Fort McMurray Christian School

ROAR Awards

Every week at our Worship Assemblies we award four ROAR (Representors Of the Amazing Redeemer) awards to students and teachers from various classes. These awards directly reflect the Throughlines we have been teaching students; we hope to encourage them to continue being image-reflectors at all times.



Although nominations often come from teachers, students are also quick to find and nominate their classmates as well. What a great way to share the love of Christ!

Athletics

Our students have many opportunities to participate in sports teams that compete with other schools across the district. Our school has an excellent athletic program and has been able to win at least one City Championship every year for the past five years. We currently have teams for archery, volleyball, basketball, badminton, and Track & Field for both boys and girls in Junior High.



PEAK Volleyball

PEAK is an acronym, which stands for **P**assion, **E**xcellence, **A**ttitude, and **K**nowledge. This is a program that is run during the school day during optional courses for students. Our volleyball program focuses on training great volleyball players and supporting them in their efforts to realize the mission and vision of the school; using sports and reflective goal-setting as a means by which to achieve this. This program begins in grade 4 and extends up to grade 9, so our students can progress seamlessly from elementary to junior high.



Why Choose Fort McMurray Christian School

Technology

Thanks to a strong and thriving School Council, we have received an abundance of educational technology for our students. Every junior high student at our school has access to a Chromebook and is able to use them throughout the day to help support their learning.



Extra-Curriculars

Aside from all the wonderful activities we engage in during the school day, we also offer many extra-curricular activities for students after classes end for the day. Our school regularly offers volleyball, basketball, badminton, track & field, archery, math club, robotics, ukulele lessons, band, and a Bible quizzing team.

Bible Quizzing

Bible Quizzing is a program run across the province in which students memorize portions of the Bible and compete in quiz style competitions. Last Christmas we were even able to host a students vs. adults game!



Junior High Programs (Possible Option Courses)

The following is list of core subjects taught to all students:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bible | Mathematics |
| Language Arts | Physical Education |
| Science | Leadership (term 1 only) |
| Social Studies | |

The following is a list of possible Options Courses that students may choose to participate in. Enrollment numbers will determine which of these are offered.

Worship Arts and Leadership

Students began the course with a seminar on Worship, where they worked to define worship in a post-modern world. Students were then divided into three areas of study based on their personal interests. These streams of study included *Behind the Scenes of Worship*, *the Instruments and Vocals of Worship*, and *Drama in Worship*. Each of these streams of study were designed to give students the skills and knowledge to plan, develop and work as a team to conduct a worship service.

Culinary Arts

In this Foods option, students will learn how to identify healthy foods and make healthy choices. Students will learn to chop, slice, and cook and bake using various recipes, always with hands-on experience. Students will learn why safety and cleanliness are so important in the kitchen. They will sample and share the food they make, thereby learning that much of the pleasure of food is sharing with others. Students will be encouraged to think of food as one of God's good gifts to us and so it is not to be wasted. Students will study kitchen safety, the names and use of kitchen tools, how to follow a recipe and lessons on a variety of food areas. Students can expect to take part in food labs and individual and group work assignments, gaining life skills that can be used to complete assignments where they will create dishes for a variety of audiences and situations.

Junior High Programs (Possible Option Courses)

Woodworking

In this option students will be introduced to the concepts and practice of Woodworking and be offered experiences in creating a wide variety of projects. A mandatory safety module is done in this course as well that ensures students are ready to work in the shop environment. Students will complete a variety of projects/activities to investigate the nature and applications of tools, equipment, materials, and safety when working with wood.

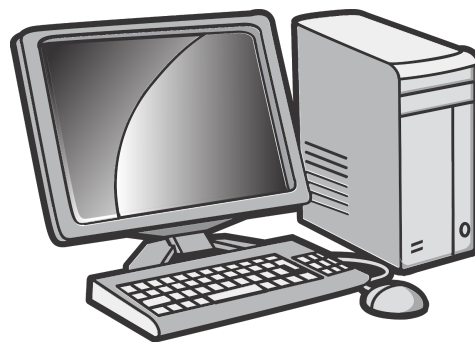
Outdoor Education

Students will learn about safety and survival skills and will engage in various projects and activities that give them experience with these skills. Specific topics will be determined by student interest and the teacher's abilities. The course may include activities such as snowboarding, building survival shelters, tying knots, navigation, camping, winter survival theory, and other outdoor enjoyment activities.

Computers and 3D Printing

In these options students will be challenged to complete a number of projects and assignments based on their prerequisite background in some of all of the following:

- Make a photo generator.
- Make a group YouTube channel.
- Edit pictures in Photography/video
- Learning how to use 3-D printers possibly including making a miniature 3-D representation of ourselves
- Coding JavaScript, Tynker, Python, code a game.
- School announcements to put on the YouTube channel.



Junior High Programs (Possible Option Courses)

Worship Arts and Leadership

The Worship Arts and Leadership course is divided into one of three areas of study: Behind the Scenes of Worship (Tech.), the Instruments and Vocals of Worship, and Drama in Worship. Each of these streams of study are designed to give students the skills and knowledge to plan, develop and work as a team to conduct a worship service.

Fabrics and Textiles

Students will learn how to use a sewing machine and basic tools to complete different assignments and projects; anyone who may have their own machine is encouraged to bring it to class, since equipment availability at school may limit enrollment numbers in this course. Students' focus will be determined based on experience, but instruction would usually begin with basic hand-sewing techniques such as threading a needle, tying a knot and sewing a button. As they develop, students' skills are then applied to various elective projects, where basic sewing pattern terms and pattern layouts are taught.

Second Languages (Possible Options: French, Spanish, Japanese, German, Filipino)

Learning a second language is an exciting and productive experience for students who wish to expand their horizons. The intent of international language courses is to promote a greater familiarity with other cultures, by developing their proficiency in the languages associated with them. To that end, our instruction is largely focused on the five strands of language learning: reading, writing, listening, viewing and speaking.

Sports Performance

This option aims to provide students with opportunities to develop knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to understand the factors related to sports performance. This will be accomplished through a combination of theory and practical exposure to various areas of sport and training. Students will be expected to demonstrate outcomes related to sports injuries, sports studies, and personal development through active participation.

Junior High Programs (Possible Option Courses)

Photography

In this option, students will be encouraged to use technical expertise, creativity, and composition skills to produce and preserve images that visually tell a story or record an event. As a photographer, they will learn how to analyze and decide upon a subject and use various photographic techniques and equipment. School equipment of 35 mm digital Canon cameras will be provided for each student.

Cosmetology

In this option, students participate in intermediate studies in skincare, facial treatments, cosmetic makeup service, hair removal, manicures, pedicures, nail art, and gel nails.

Library Option

In this option, students will work with our school librarian to learn some of the basic skills of how a library operates. Students will learn how to categorize and check books. Students will become familiar with the Dewey Decimal system for organizing resources in a learning Commons setting. Given instruction on how books are to be organized within a library. Also will be given the opportunity to work with younger students when they visit the library.

School Yearbook

This option will be open to students in Grade 7- 9 and the focus will be complete to print our annual school yearbook for all of the FM Christian School community. Hard copies of past yearbooks are available for students to view. More information regarding this option will become available as we move into the calendar year.

Debate

In this option, students will learn effective use of language is essential for success in all curriculum areas. One useful way of integrating language learning is to focus on interdisciplinary processes. One such process which has been shown to be extremely successful is the use of speech and debate skills.

An Average Day in Junior High at Fort McMurray Christian School

2020-2021 Timetable

Core Subjects include Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, or Science

| Block | Time | Monday - Thursday | | | | Friday |
|-------|--|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 41 min. (Start: 8:05) | Bible or Health | | | | |
| 2 | 56 min. | Core Subject | | | | |
| 3 | 56 min. | Core Subject | | | | PE |
| 4 | 51 min. | Core Subject | | | | |
| | Recess and Lunch - 48 min. (11:35 - 12:23) | | | | | |
| 5 | 47 min. | PE | Core Subject | PE | Core Subject | Core Subject |
| 6 | 21 min. | Tutorial | | | | Option Course or PEAK |
| 7 | 60 min. (End: 2:40) | Option Course or PEAK | Core Subject | Option Course or PEAK | Core Subject | |

*There will be transition times and breaks between morning class as well

Other Information

Location

We are located at 107 Brett Drive and we share the building with Timberlea Public School. Our entrance is located on the east side of the building.



Childcare

We have childcare on-site through Bethel Happy Daycare.

Be sure to visit their website for more information <https://bethelhappydaycare.com/>

There is also care provided through the YMCA

Contact them directly by Phone: 780-215-5641 or see their website for more information.

Bussing

We have bussing available for anywhere north of the bridge, for a fee.



Other Information

LOCKERS

All junior high FMCS students are required to have a locker that is secured with a combination lock, provided by the school. There will be a \$5 fee charged to the student. This fee will be refunded at the end of the year, upon the return of the lock to the school. Students are required to use this lock, and **are not permitted to use one of their own.** Students are encouraged to **leave valuables at home.** In accordance with our cell phone/personal electronics procedure, students who bring their devices to school are to leave them in the lockers for the duration of the instructional day.

Lockers need to be kept in a condition that is deemed satisfactory, by administration. Failure to do so may result in locker usage privileges being revoked; in addition, a fee of up to \$50.00 may be charged, in order to restore the locker to an acceptable condition.

2020 - 2021 School Supply List

The following items are recommended for all junior high students enrolled at FMCS.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Binder | 1-2 White gum erasers |
| 3-4 Packs of lined paper | 1 Plastic ruler |
| 1 Pack of graphing paper | Pencil Crayons |
| 1 Pack of dividers | Flag style post-it notes |
| 1 Pack pens in blue or black ink | Highlighters in at least 4 colours |
| 1 Pack of pencils | A scientific calculator |

As all students are required to participate in physical education classes our physical education staff recommends that every student have: a t-shirt, a pair of shorts, a pair of sweatpants, a longer sleeved shirt or hoodie, and a pair of indoor running shoes.

Related to the above, ROYALS athletic apparel may be purchased from our online store (link below).

<https://fortmcmurraychristianschool.entripyshops.com/>

What Our Students and Parents Think

“ I have gotten to witness the care and effort put into working and learning as a community. We have some great Jr. High students who work with younger students and it feels like everyone loves each other, regardless of age or background.

” - Parent

“ I have been at this school for many years and the things I like about our school is that it is a safe environment for me, without any worries, and that everyone is so kind to each other.

” - Student



“ When I dropped our son off to the school for the first day! My heart was overwhelmed with joy. That God was in the hallways. So excited, so blessed that I felt the love around every corner from our father above. To see God's name in the schoolroom was amazing. Thank you.

” - Parent

“ I have fun growing and watching others grow. My favorite part is probably the Worship Arts program as it fills my heart with joy. Also seeing more students join in fills my heart with joy.

” - Student

“ I appreciate the relationships my son has made, not only in his own class but throughout the school. The small school size allows him to interact with all grades.

” - Parent

