



# Elementary 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.

## Our Elementary Teaching Staff

**Jackie Norman** - *Early Childhood  
Development Program*

**Rebekah Hiltz** - *Kindergarten*

**Stephanie Wiebe** - *Grade 1*

**Jillian Jackman** - *Grade 2*

**Erica Vanden Pol** - *Grade 3*

**Aundrea Dinan** - *Grade 4*

**Katie Lemon** - *Grade 5*

**Ronald Vanden Pol** - *Grade 6*

**Ellen Polegato** - *Physical Education*

**Lois Ann Emberley** - *Christian  
Education Coordinator*

**Daniel Baseley** - *Vice-Principal*

**Bobbi Compton** - *Principal*

## Stay in Touch!



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



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



**Twitter** - @ChristianFMPSD



**Instagram** - fm\_christian\_school



**REMIND** (Whole School) -

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



**Office Phone** - (780) 743-1079



**Office Email** - [sorina.saayman@fmpsds.ab.ca](mailto:sorina.saayman@fmpsds.ab.ca)

## 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?

### ECDP Storyline - "SHINE for Jesus"

#### Verse - Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



#### Deep Hope

The deep hope for ECDP is that all the students will grow to have a love for God, His creation and His family.

#### What is SHINE?

- S - sitting and listening with our whole bodies
- H - helping others
- I - including everyone in God's family
- N - nurturing our knowledge of God
- E - enjoying and respecting God's creation

#### Prayer Buddies

In ECDP we have two Star Prayer Buddies, Sparkle and Glisten, who take turns spending a week with students. Sparkle and Glisten, along with their backpack, Christian board book and information booklet teach the family about what SHINE means in our classroom. Students are proud to bring home a prayer buddy when it is their turn.



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

### Grade 2 Storyline - “Happy Campers on God's Campground!”

#### Verse - Philippians 2:3-4

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.*



#### Deep Hope

The deep hope for second grade is that they become others-centered. Happy Campers use binocular eyes to search God’s Campground for people in need. No job is too small for a happy camper! Happy campers also take time to look at God’s campground to feel the “awe and wondies” of his creation.

#### FLEx

In second grade, students raise money and awareness of the world water crisis. We have partnered with The Legacy Water Foundation to build and sustain water wells in South Sudan.



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

### Grade 3 Storyline - "Looking for God in All the School Places"

#### Verse - Colossians 1: 15-17

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

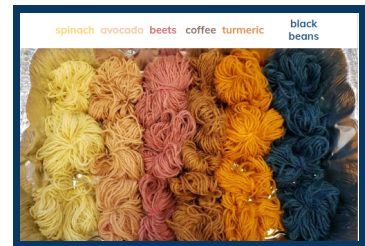


#### Deep Hope

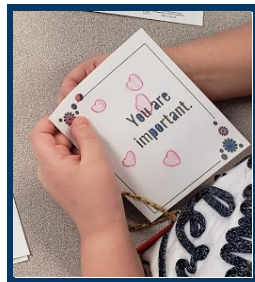
The deep hope for third grade is that we will learn to seek after God and look for Him in everything we do. Finding God in different places will help us learn more about who He is and be able to use what we learn to better reflect God to others.

#### FLEx

After studying Peruvian culture, specifically the dyeing and weaving of llama wool, the class decided to see if they could create their own dyes using natural ingredients. Students used plants and spices to create six different colour dyes and then used them to colour wool.



Once the wool was dyed the students learned how to use a circle loom to weave seven stranded keychains and bracelets.



The students have donated their weaving crafts to Ten Thousand villages. All proceeds from the sales will go toward the Artisan Relief Fund in order to help makers who have been affected by natural disasters.



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

### Grade 6 Storyline - “Eager to do what is good!”

#### Verse - Titus 2:11-14

*For the grace of God offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the appearing of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness; and to purify for himself a people that are his very own: eager to do what is good.*

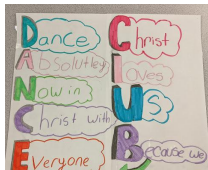
#### Deep Hope

God gave us the greatest gift of all: His Son. As we go out into God’s world we will be a group eager to do God’s will wherever we are, in order to make the world a better place.



#### FLEx

This year students have taken it upon themselves to use the gifts God has given them, in order to create clubs to help other students in the school grow and learn as well.



**Dance Club** - Hosted by two girls in the class, they teach grade 1 and 2 students how to worship God through dance once a week. They will often present these dances at our worship assemblies in front of the whole school.

**Volleyball Club** - Some of our grade 6 PEAK athletes decided to share their love of volleyball with students in grade 3. The grade 3s liked the idea so much that every one of them joined the club and practice volleyball during recess once a week.



**Art Club** - Other students from our class also thought it would be nice to give younger students an opportunity to create more art during the week. They host an art club for students in grades four and five.

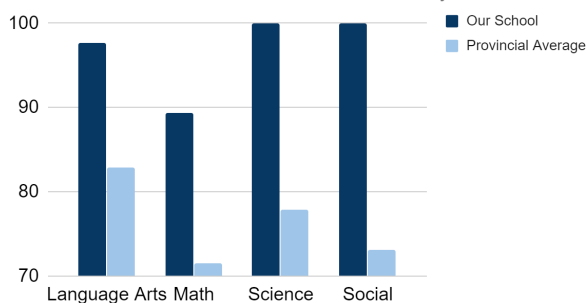
Through their own skills and talents, they are able to support and teach other students, which is such a powerful way to learn and to live out our Deep Hope.

# Why Choose Fort McMurray Christian School

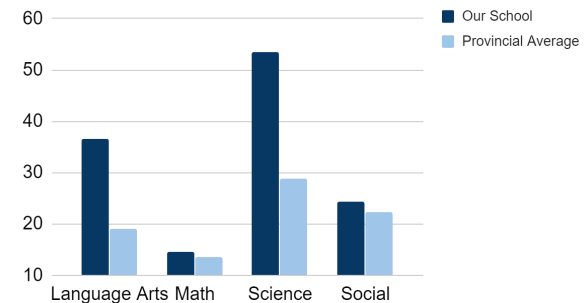
## Academics

Fort McMurray Christian School has an established history of strong academic achievement, with regard to the Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests. Over the past five years, the school has scored well above provincial averages in all subject areas tested including: Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts. We also placed 76th out of 852 schools in the entire province on the 2019 Fraser report.

Percentage of grade 6 students getting an acceptable mark on the Provincial Achievement Test over the last 3 years.



Percentage of grade 6 students getting an excellent mark on the Provincial Achievement Test over the last 3 years.



## 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 when they are asked about the safe and caring environment at our school. 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. This is also very beneficial for our younger students, who receive all the extra support with help from the junior highs with things like reading buddies, math clubs, and sports.

# Why Choose Fort McMurray Christian School

## 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 elementary and junior high students even apply what they practice during our Worship Assemblies to help worship teams at their own churches!



## 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!

## Why Choose Fort McMurray Christian School

### Athletics

Our students have many opportunities to participate in sports teams that play against other schools across the district. Our school has an excellent athletic program and has been able to win at least one (usually more) City Championship over the past five years. We currently have archery, volleyball, basketball, badminton, and Track & Field teams, for both boys and girls in grades five and six.



### PEAK Volleyball

PEAK is an acronym, which stands for **P**assion, **E**xcellence, **A**ttitude, and **K**nowledge. This program operates during the school day, while other students participate in optional courses. 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 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. All elementary students at our school have access to either tablets or Chromebooks and are 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. This past school year we have offered volleyball, basketball, badminton, track & field, archery, math club, robotics, ukulele club, 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. This Christmas we were even able to host a students vs adults game!

## Special Elementary Programming

In the upper elementary grades, we also offer some special programming to help transition students into our junior high options programs.

### *Culinary Arts*

Students spend time in our kitchen learning how to follow recipes, plan creative dishes, and how to plan meals for a family. It is a great opportunity for children in grades five and six to learn the basics of cooking. This continues into our junior high program.



### *Languages*

At our school, we offer a variety of language options. With the assistance of the amazing people who are a part of our school community, we have been able to offer French, Spanish, and Japanese to students from grades 4-9.

## Other Information

### Bell Times

	First Bell	8:00	
	Class Begins	8:05	
	First Recess	9:25 - 9:40	
	Lunch Recess	11:40 - 12:10	
	Lunch	12:10 - 12:25	
	Dismissal	2:40	
	ECDP & Kindergarten AM class - 8:05 - 10:55 AM		
PM class - 11:50 - 2:40 PM			

### 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.

## 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

