

Frequently Asked Questions about Half Day Kindergarten and Pre-School for 2010-2011

1. **When did schools begin contacting parents about Half Day Kindergarten?**
 - a. Schools began contacting parents/guardians on Thursday, April 15, 2010 to inform them of the Board's decision to move to Half Day Kindergarten (***Half Day Everyday/Mon-Fri***) in Medicine Hat Catholic schools.
 - b. Should too many parents indicate their first preference is a morning or an afternoon program, classes are determined by random selection.
2. **The Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education has offered Pre-School services since 2004 at some of our elementary schools. If your child is in a Half Day Kindergarten program can your child access Pre-School during the other Half Day?**
 - a. **Yes.** A child can attend a combination of Kindergarten and Pre-School over the course of a day.
 - b. The Division has offered two kinds of Pre-School services in the past.
 - i. ***Designated Site Pre-Schools** are offered to provide programming for students aged 2.5 years to 5 years who had been identified with severe learning needs.
 - ii. **Community Pre-Schools** are open to all students aged 3 years by Sept 1.
 - c. The **Pre-School** locations planned for **September 2010** are as follows; however are contingent on space:
 - i. **St. Thomas Aquinas French Immersion: PM**
 - ii. **St. Michael's MH: AM/PM**
 - iii. **St. Francis Xavier: PM**
 - iv. **St. Patrick's: AM/PM**
 - v. ***Mother Teresa: AM/PM**
 - vi. **St. Michael's Bow Island: AM/PM**
 - d. **Registration** is a **first come first serve**.
 - e. It is very important to remember that Pre-School Programming is dependent on available space. Should a school get a sudden influx of new students in Grade K-6, Pre -School programming may not be available.
3. **What are the fees for Pre-School?**
 - a. **Pre-School is a fee for service** program calculated on attendance days per week and fees range from \$68 - \$340 a month for **half days**.
 - b. Ten post-dated cheques are required at the time of registration.
4. **Will the Pre-Schools be licensed?**
 - a. **Yes.**
 - i. This means that children can only attend ***Morning "OR" Afternoon*** for a total of no more than 3.75 Pre-School hours per day.
5. **Will there be supervision between the Kindergarten programs and the start of Pre-School programs?**
 - a. **Yes.** Learning Assistants will provide supervision to children who transition from Kindergarten to Pre-school programs and vice versa.
6. **What will be the Kindergarten fee?**
 - a. Kindergarten fees will be **\$100/year** for schools in Medicine Hat. Bow Island fees are set by St. Michael's School at **\$50/year**.
7. **What does the Kindergarten Fee pay for?**
 - a. The fee pays for field trips, consumable materials and special classroom presentations.
8. **Will there be Full Day alternating Kindergarten programming in Medicine Hat Catholic Schools?**
 - a. **No.** Other than ***St. Michael's School Bow Island*** which will remain unchanged continuing to offer full days Tuesday and Thursday for the first part of the year, and beginning in April, increasing to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
9. **Can children cross attend (*out of their attendance area*) to go to Kindergarten?**
 - a. **Yes.** However, it is up to the School Principal to determine if a request for cross attendance is accepted.
10. **Non-Catholic students can attend a Catholic School provided there is suitable space and a program available.**
 - a. Registrations from non-Catholics students can be accepted by the Principal, if the Principal feels there are sufficient resources and facilities to accommodate the student.
11. **What happens if a parent who has a child attending Kindergarten in the public school system wants to register in a Catholic Pre-School; could they bump a child in a Catholic Kindergarten out of the space?**

- a. **No.** Pre-school registrations from parents whose children are attending Kindergarten in Catholic schools will take precedence.
- 12. What will the times be for Half Day Kindergarten?**
- a. Times will be set by the individual school; however, instruction will be **approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes each day.**
- 13. What transportation is available?**
- a. If your child attends Half Day Kindergarten transportation will be provide one way.
 - i. That means if your child attends in the morning they can ride the bus to school but must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the morning program.
 - ii. If your child attends the afternoon Kindergarten program that means a parent/guardian will need to drop off the child at the school during the noon hour and the child can ride home on the bus.
 - iii. Students who are accessing both Half Day Kindergarten and Half-Day Pre-School at the same school will be able to ride the bus both ways.
- 14. Pre-School children** are not eligible for transportation other than children that qualify for Program Unit Funding (PUF).
- 15. Kindergarten children** that qualify for **Program Unit Funding (PUF)** may have the opportunity to attend Kindergarten all day.
- 16. Can a Kindergarten student be registered and attend in both a Catholic and Public School? No. Can a Kindergarten student be registered and attend in more than one Catholic School? No.**
- 17. Can Kindergarten students access before and after school care programs at the school?**
- a. Please contact the school to determine programs available. Not all schools offer before and after school programs.

information. Registration forms available at the schools and on the division website.

- 2. Preschool Programming is offered in English and French Immersion** for children that are 3 years of age as of September 1, 2010. Community Based Pre-Schools and Designated ECS Sites are offered for students with special needs.
- 3. English Preschool Programming** will be offered at St. Michael's School Medicine Hat; Mother Teresa School; St. Patrick's School; St. Francis Xavier School; and St. Michael's School, Bow Island.
- 4. French Immersion Preschool Programming** will be offered at St. Thomas Aquinas School.
- 5. Both morning and afternoon programs** are available and vary by site.
- 6.** For more information please download the ***Pre-School Handbook*** available on the **Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education Division** website @ www.mhcbe.ab.ca; or by contacting the Catholic School Board Office at (403) 527-2292) or at your local Catholic School.
- 7.** For **Preschool, Kindergarten and Special Education Services** inquiries please contact our **Primary Consultant Mrs. Kym Porter @ (403)502-8354 or kym.porter@mhcbe.ab.ca**

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION & PROGRAMMING At-A-Glance

- 1. May 3 - 7, 2010 Preschool Registration Week** for all Medicine Hat and Bow Island Catholic Schools, first come first serve. Contact your local Catholic School or the Board Office at (403)527-2292 for more