

Medicine Hat Catholic
Separate Regional Division #20

STUDENT SERVICES

Program Description



LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM I

Program Description

The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) focuses on providing students in grades 1 - 10, with academic instruction and life skill experiences. The grade 1-5 LAP class is located at St. Louis Schools, the grade 6-8 LAP class is located at St. Mary's School and the grade 9-12 LAP is located at McCoy High School. Lower teacher/student ratios in this program allows for individual student needs to be met to the fullest extent possible. Each student's educational programs are based upon an Individualized Program Plan. Where it is the most appropriate placement, students are integrated in regular classrooms for subjects such as Religion, Physical Education, Music and Art with Teacher Assistant support as needed. The students participate in all school activities and are an important part of the school community. Students' academic progress will continually be monitored to ensure this is the most appropriate placement and for future programming placement.

Eligibility Criteria and Referral Process

Students may be referred by the Classroom Teacher or Parent for possible placement in the Learning Assistance Program. When a Classroom Teacher identifies a student who is experiencing significant difficulties in one or more areas in the regular classroom setting, a referral for a diagnostic assessment may be made.

Based on the on the results of classroom tests and the student's classroom work, the Classroom Teacher will complete an Assessment Referral Form and have the Parents sign a Parental Consent form so that a diagnostic assessment may be completed. These forms will be forwarded to the Special Education Facilitator or School Administrator, identifying the areas of concern, for the purpose of further assessment and possible program placement. Both of the forms will then be forwarded to central office with the Assessment Referral form requiring the signature of the Director of Special Education for approval. Individual cognitive and academic assessment must clearly indicate a moderate learning delay. Usually the students in this program have an IQ less than 80 ± 5 . When students are eligible and it is determined that this would be the best placement for the student, the Director of Special Education is contacted. The Director of Special Education will investigate the possibility as to program space, transportation and other placement considerations. If it is determined that the placement can proceed, the Director of Special Education, Learning Assistance Teacher, Special Education Facilitator, Diagnostician (where appropriate) will meet with the Parents to review the assessment results and placement recommendation. It is strongly recommended that Parent and child visit the Learning Assistance



Program prior to placement in program. If Parents agree to placement in the LAP, then a Consent for Admission Form is signed and filed in the student's cumulative file and a copy is provided to Parents. Final placement is left at the discretion of the Director of Special Education.

When the student leaves the LAP for any reason, an Exit from Special Education Program form is completed, signed by Parents and placed in the student's cumulative file with a copy provided to Parents.

“We teach the young to show one another a fleshed love. If we ask them to fill their days with many words that speak of their love, then we also ask that they let their words become flesh. We guide them in spirituality to let love become concrete. Our teaching and witness prepares them to let love be manifested in the cards they write, the meals they prepare for one another, the flowers they send, the gifts they bestow, the caresses they offer and the tears they wipe away. . . . Taking our cue from Jesus, Catholic Education teaches students to put a little flesh in their love.”¹

¹ Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association, *Build Bethlehem Everywhere/A Statement on Catholic Education*. (Ontario, 2002), p. 25.

