



INDIAN SOCIETY OF CALGARY  
PRESENTS

# CALGARY SCHOOL SYSTEMS

*An Interactive Webinar by Parents*





## **Disclaimer**

The material and information contained in this webinar is for general informational and educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional advice. Any reliance you place on this material is strictly at your own risk.

The views, information, or opinions expressed during this presentation are solely those of the individuals involved and do not necessarily represent those of the Facebook group Indians in Calgary (Indian Society of Calgary) and its board members.

The school admission timelines discussed in this presentation was before COVID-19. We are not sure how it's going to be in the upcoming school year.

## OUR PANNELLISTS



**ROOP RAI**  
MODERATOR & SPEAKER  
GATE PROGRAM



**PAYEL DUTTA DAS**  
CBE REGULAR &  
WESTMOUNT CHARTER



**RACHANA TIWARI**  
CBE- IPP & TLC



**AVNEET DHANOA**  
MONTESSORI, SPECIAL EDUCATION  
PRE-K, PUF, FFCA



**MANOGYAN MISHRA**  
TLC



**GURMEET BINDRA**  
WESTMOUNT  
CHARTER SCHOOL



**SUHEL MALHOTRA**  
SCIENCE SCHOOLS



**SHEETAL CHEEMA**  
SCIENCE SCHOOLS



**RAMAN KAPOOR**  
PRIVATE SCHOOLS



**ALI NIZAMI**  
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## **BEHIND THE SCENES**



**DEVESH OBEROI**

Co-founder and Director, ISC  
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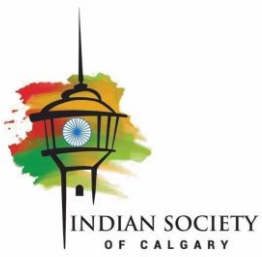
# **Overview of Calgary School Systems**

## **1. PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- CBE (Calgary Board of Education)
- CCSD (Calgary Catholic School District)
- Rocky View School Division
- Online instruction

## **2. CHARTER SCHOOLS**

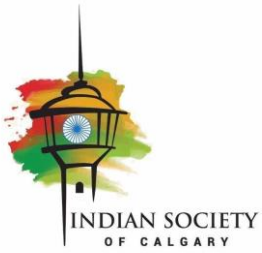
## **3. PRIVATE SCHOOLS**



# **Calgary Board of Education Programs (Public)**

**Link:** <https://cbe.ab.ca/schools/find-a-school/>

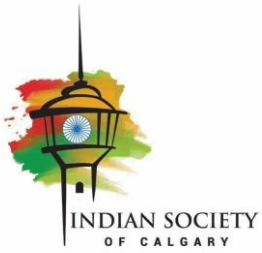
1. Regular (IPP)
2. Advanced Placement (AP)
3. GATE
4. International Baccalaureate (IB)
5. Home Education
6. Early French Immersion
7. Late French Immersion
8. Montessori
9. Language Programs: Mandarin bilingual, Spanish and german Bilingual
10. Science
11. TLC



# **Calgary Catholic School District Programs (Public)**

**Link:** <https://www.cssd.ab.ca/Programs/>

1. Regular (IPP)
2. Advanced Placement (AP)
3. Congregated Gifted PProgram
4. International Baccalaureate (IB)
5. Home Education
6. Early French Immersion
7. Late French Immersion
8. Spanish Bilingual



# **INTRODUCTION**

1. School year in Alberta starts in September and ends in June for traditional calendar. August to June for Modified calendar.
2. Kindergarten is not mandatory in Alberta. Mandate schooling begins from Grade 1 when kids are 6 years old.
3. A child can start Kindergarten in the Fall of 2020 if they turn 5 years old on or before Dec 31, 2020, and start Grade 1 in the Fall of 2020 if they turn 6 years old on or before Dec 31, 2020.
4. Preschool is optional when child turns 3 years of age.

Here's a link to the calculator to check the eligibility of a child to begin Kindergarten:

<https://cbe.ab.ca/programs/kindergarten/Pages/default.aspx>





# Montessori

-Avneet Dhanoa

## What is Montessori?

- The **Montessori Method of Education**, developed by Italian physician [Maria Montessori](#), is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children. Montessori's method has been used for over 100 years in many parts of the world.
- Montessori is best suited for children who are independent and self-directed learners.

## Montessori in CBE:

- Three K-6 schools offer Montessori method of teaching, and are located in NW, SE, and SW.
- Application process starts in January and is due by approximately second week of February (check school website).
- Entry into the Montessori Program takes place in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 only, unless a child has continuous documented Montessori experience (space dependent).

## Private Montessori Schools:

- Montessori school of Calgary (pre-k to 6), Calgary Montessori school, Maria Montessori Education centre (toddler to Grade 9). Pre-k is offered privately only.

**Fees:** <https://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/fees-and-waivers/Pages/default.aspx>

# CBE- Special Education, Pre-K and Program Unit Funding

-Avneet Dhanoa

- **Special Education:** It is an education program for children with disabilities and delays.
- **What are delays:** A child is considered having delays when they are not meeting the developmental milestones.
- **Developmental Milestones-**  
<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Health/Pages/conditions.aspx?hwid=abo8756>
- **Funding Criteria:** Your child needs an assessment which is conducted by a professional such as Psychologist, Speech language pathologist, occupational therapy, physiotherapy. Depending on the scores on the assessment your child qualifies for funding.
- **Coding Criteria:** Based on the assessment and the score your child gets a code, to access funding.

## Types of Funding for Pre-K

- PUF
- Mild to moderate

**How to access funding:** CBE schools, Agencies

**IPP/ IEP:** A child funded for special or exceptional needs must have an IPP.

## Special Education and Exceptional Needs:

CBE provides programming at various sites across CBE to meet specialized needs of some students with:

- Blind and Visually Impaired
- Cognitive Developmental Disabilities
- Complex Needs
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)
- Giftedness
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Health and Wellness (social/emotional/behavioural challenges)
- Physical and Medical Disabilities



# **CBE Regular Program + IPP (Individual Program Plan)**

- Payel and Rachana

## **CBE REGULAR PROGRAM**

- Registering a Non-Canadian child, visit “Admissions and Assessment Office” at Kingsland Centre. Address: 7430 - 5 St SW Phone: 403-777-7373
- Registering a Canadian child, visit the zonal school directly
- <https://cbe.ab.ca/registration/Pages/default.aspx>
- No timelines for admission, CBE Public schools registration is year-round
- Walk-zone is between 1.6 km and 2.4 km depending on grades configuration.
- School bus not available in all schools
- Transportation details  
<https://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/busing-and-transportation/Pages/default.aspx>

## **IPP (INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM PLAN)**

- An IPP is a programming or plan of action designed for students with exceptional and special needs.
- Focuses on child’s strengths, needs, learning goals, strategies, and resources provided.

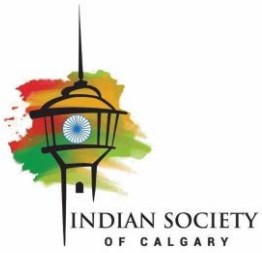




# **Traditional Learning Centers**

**-Manogyan and Rachana**

- Admission process: Admission process begins in Jan & ends Feb for the session starting in Sep.
- Admission deadlines: Forms are submitted by first week of Feb for the following year session.
- What schools have this program: Chief Justice Milvain, Annie Gale School etc. google list of schools offering TLC programs in Calgary for the list.
- The TLC program is from Kindergarten to Grade 9. Admission Starts in Kindergarten, but is allowed in all grades depending on number of seats available. Lottery system is used in selecting students. Students are given preference: Kids with siblings in the school, Kids in the vicinity of the school.
- Difference from other CBE school - Mandatory School Uniform , home-work, French & music as mandatory subjects from Grade 1.
- School fees- lunch supervision approximate \$300, bus fees \$800, Instructional supplies approximate \$100, band fees- from \$100 to \$250( varies by school) and uniform from McCarthy.



# CBE Science Schools

- Sheetal Cheema and Suhel Malhotra

- **K-9**; can apply for admission to any grade; long waitlist
- **Lottery system**
- **Schools that offer Science program:** Langevin, Louis Riel, Maple Ridge, R.T. Alderman, Valley View, Ian Bazalgette.
- **Admission process** - Starting 2020 - For all new registrations to CBE whether Kindergarten or a different grade coming from another school district – must register at their designated community school and request a transfer form for applying to the Science program.
- **Admission deadlines** - Deadline to apply is Mid Feb, Expected to reply in 10 days before deadline date in March.
- **Open House** every year.



# **A Quick Recap**

**More information on CBE programs including the programs we didn't cover:**

<https://cbe.ab.ca/schools/find-a-school/>

**More information on CCSD programs including the programs we didn't cover:**

<https://www.cssd.ab.ca/Programs/>

**We will talk more about GATE After Westmount Charter has been discussed.**



# **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

1. Almadina School Society
2. Calgary Arts Academy Society
3. Calgary Girls' School Society
4. Connect Charter School (Science focus)
5. Foundations for the Future Charter Academy (FFCA)
6. Westmount Charter School Society (Gifted program)





# **Westmount Charter School Society**

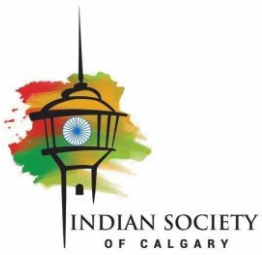
**- Payel and Gurmeet**

- Westmount Charter School follows Alberta Education Guidelines
- Offers K-12 admission for Gifted Kids
- Application submission Sep-Nov (the actual dates declared in summer)
- <https://www.westmountcharter.com/admissions/>
- Fee-based school bus service who reside > 2.4 km from school  
<http://www.westmountcharter.com/transportation/>

## **Admission Process:**

- Psychological Assessment with a Registered Psychologist
- FSIQ/GAI score of 130 +/- 5 or higher to apply (batch 2020-2021 criteria)
- Full Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ)/The General Ability Index (GAI)
- Include the intelligence test result with the application form
- Wait for the email from school with instructions for next steps

**Insight into the school**



# **CBE- GATE PROGRAM**

**- ROOP RAI**

- CBE's answer to Westmount: Grades 4-12
- Intended for students, identified as "Gifted"
- Criteria: Minimum IQ of 130
- Hillhurst School and Queen Elizabeth High School in the North
- Henry Wise Wood and Louis Riel School (High) in the South
- CBE's Internal Referral and Placement Process initiated by the community school
- Psycho Educational test + IPP submitted by community school to the GATE program
- Application Deadline: February of the admission year
- Psycho Educational Test should be completed in Fall of the year before admission year
- University of Calgary Applied Psychological & Education Services (UCAPES) affordable
- Many supplemental health insurance plans provide some reimbursement for psychological services provided by Registered Psychologists
- Bright Vs Gifted: <https://gatecalgary.ca/identification/bright-vs-gifted/>



# Foundation for the Future Chartered Academy (FFCA)

-Avneet Dhanoa

**FFCA** offers a distinctive educational program for children Kindergarten to Grade 12. FFCA offers four elementary campuses (NE, NW, SE, SW) in the city, One campus for middle school in NE and one for high school in NW. It is a uniform school and have homework.

**Admission process:** Parents can register their child/ children as soon as they have the birth certificate. once registered your child will be added to the waitlist. Each campus has its own wait list. Campus is decided based on address. Wait list must be renewed every year. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.ffca-calgary.com/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=13186165>

## **Currently**

Sibling status → Waitlist (first come first serve)

## **Starting 2022/2023**

Sibling status → Waitlist (first come first serve)

## **Fees:**

Grade	Resource Fee	Grade	Transportation Fee
Kindergarten	\$115	Grade 1-12 (two-way)	\$425
Grade 1-6	\$145	Grade 1-12(one-way)	\$855
Grade 7-12	\$195	Shuttle between campuses	\$200 one way
Family Maximum	\$450	Family Maximum	\$2285



## **A Quick Recap**

**Other charter schools that we didn't cover, you can find more information about them from their school websites which will be provided to you.**



# PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- RAMAN KAPOOR

## Admission Process

- The admission process for all private schools is a little bit different. There is not a “cookie cutter” approach. In most cases, admissions are assessed year round, and admission is given based on assessment and availability.
- Within many private schools, parents are required to make a decision in the late fall, whether they will be returning in September.
- Siblings are often given priority.
- All have some form of assessment exam/process.



# PRIVATE SCHOOLS

## General Points

- Many private schools, not all have campuses that cater from K-12, easier to get in during younger years, up to grade 5
- Possible to get into after grade 5 - more challenging.
- Private Schools in Calgary, include, but not limited to:  
Webber Academy, Strathcona Tweedsmuir, Renert, Foothills Academy, Waldorf, Rundle College, Delta West Academy, West Island College, The Edge, Clearwater Academy
- Private Schools follow the Alberta Curriculum guidelines
- Uniform mandatory, however varies from school to school
- Fees range from \$6000 - \$18000 a year.



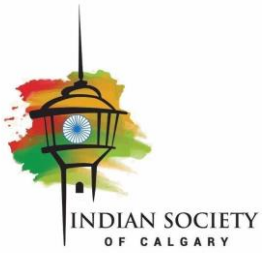
# WHAT'S NEXT?

-ALI NIZAMI

**There are three steps in selecting the right option for the kids:**

1. Know your kid – Identify early interest in kids, get them to do user and kid friendly online aptitude tests. Many resources online will let you know if your kid is more into Arts, Science or Literature.
2. Find your options (we are doing that today).
3. Talk to your peers, friends and family whose kids are in these schools

Note: It's always ok to change school system. For example, if you decided to send your kid to a private school but along the road you figured may be it's not much different than public school, it would not be a hard transition for the kid (Caution, if we decide to change from public to private kids may find it difficult to adapt).



# My Experience As a Parent

## First year of school:

Sometimes we don't get to send our kids to the school of our choice due to various different reasons and we have to settle with whatever is available and that's what happened to us.

My wife and I had our daughter registered in one of the non public CBE system but due to some unavoidable circumstances we had to send her to the local public school and like many of us, I was thinking we are settling for lesser quality of education and we soon found out we were DEAD wrong. Different systems are available for different types of kids and no school system is less than any other.

## During her 6 years of schooling:

- Communicate with our kids daily, ask open-ended questions like what did you do in Math class or what games did you play in your recess or ask about their teachers.
- Win their confidence
- Volunteer at every opportunity you can get at your kids' school
- Never miss Parent-Teacher Conference and ask, ask, ask questions about your kid
- Know the Principal of your kid's school by face and first name.



# WRAP UP



Taking care of our children and giving them the best opportunities to flourish and grow is our responsibility and duty as parents. Thank you for taking the initiative to make it happen!

## **OUR SPONSORS**

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# Questions & Answers

**Please type in your questions in the chat section.**

**You can also email your questions to- [info@calgaryindians.org](mailto:info@calgaryindians.org)**



# THANK YOU!