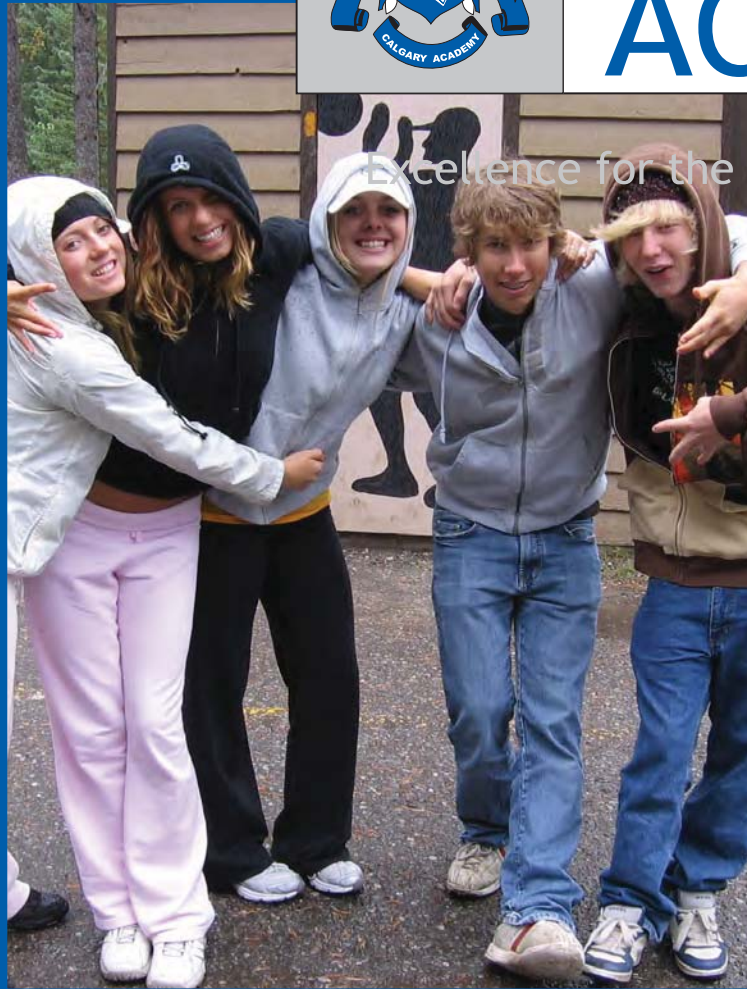


CALGARY ACADEMY



Excellence for the Exceptional Learner



Mission

The mission of Calgary Academy is to provide unique educational opportunities for students with learning difficulties. By doing so, we aspire to enable students to achieve personal success through the development of individualized learning strategies in an encouraging and caring environment.



Excellence for the Exceptional Learner



Vision

Calgary Academy strives to be recognized as an international educational center of excellence for the research and development of specialized learning strategies.



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History

Calgary Academy is an accredited private school founded in 1981 in response to the desire of local parents and educators for a specialized, independent school that could address the needs of intellectually capable students who were struggling in community schools. A detailed evaluation of several highly specialized independent schools was undertaken and the strengths of these schools were incorporated into a working model for the Calgary Academy Comprehensive Program. From 1981 to 1993 students were encouraged to leave Calgary Academy as soon as their academic skills were at age and grade appropriate levels.

In 1994, the Transition Program was initiated as a response to requests from parents for a program that would allow children with skills at grade level to stay at Calgary Academy. The Transition Program emphasizes further development of the advanced critical thinking and learning strategies necessary for success in post-secondary environments.

Today, Calgary Academy is pleased to offer both the Comprehensive Program for Grades 2 through 12 and the Transition Program for Grades 5 through 12.

Since opening, Calgary Academy has educated more than 4,000 students from across Alberta and is recognized as a leader in specialized academic programming.

As a charitable, non-profit community agency, we first opened our doors to 42 students operating out of rented facilities. Today, Calgary Academy houses more than 120 educational professionals and over 625 students on its 17 acre campus overlooking the Rocky Mountains.

Today's facilities include more than 40 classrooms, 2 gymnasiums, a fitness center, a multimedia center, 3 digital science labs, an fine arts studio, a drama theatre, a hands-on workshop, a music department, a second language lab, a 120-seat multimedia presentation theatre, a cafeteria, and extensive outdoor sports facilities.

Program

The Calgary Academy Program, offered from Grades 2 through 12, is designed for students who have average to above average intellectual ability but who have significant difficulty with reading, written language or math. In each classroom there are a minimum of two instructors and a maximum of 16 students. Students applying for the program must have a good social and behavioral history.

The primary goals of the CA program are to:

- maximize each student's academic performance
- teach independent work habits and to develop transferable skills
- improve pro-social and self-advocacy skills
- improve self-confidence and self-esteem

In addition to the prescribed Alberta curriculum, Calgary Academy offers a variety of fine arts programs. In fine arts, Calgary Academy students have the opportunity for hands-on learning in art, music, drama, Spanish and digital media studies. Also, our physical education and sports programs offer all students an equal opportunity for active participation, regardless of athletic ability.

For many students entering Calgary Academy, school is synonymous with frustration and failure. At Calgary Academy, our entire faculty is committed to a school culture that provides every student with the range of supports necessary to succeed academically and socially, while enjoying their learning experience.

Since all of our students will ultimately integrate into other settings, our challenge is to ensure that they have acquired the skills necessary to be successful as students and as productive, contributing members of society.



A well rounded education for each student is ensured through a variety of programs that complement the core courses of language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

Fine Art class nurtures a work ethic, ownership of student's work and develops a skill base which helps students express themselves visually. Art develops their critical and analytical skills which supports the transferable skills taught within the classroom.

Music class enables students to develop their voice and instrumental talents. The program emphasizes commitment and group work while instilling a love of music that goes beyond the classroom.

Our **Drama** department gives students the opportunity to work in a team setting and take personal risks. This program fosters positive self-image through success-based programs at various skill levels.

The main focus of our **Spanish** program is to instill communicative competence in our students. Also, the study of cultural norms in Hispanic countries enables the students to develop a greater understanding and acceptance of cultures different from our own, as well the opportunity to see just how useful speaking Spanish can be on a global scale.

Digital Studies provides students with new and better ways to research, communicate, make presentations, and study. REACH is supported through many cooperative learning projects with the opportunity for students to act as teaching assistants and share their knowledge with their peers.

CA Cycle provides students with hands-on exposure in a shop setting on the subjects of bicycle repair, ski/snowboard maintenance, racquet stringing and inline skate repair. Students will be taught specific mechanical skills as well as life skills such as goal setting, leadership, mentoring, reflections and peer teaching while building and maintaining a portfolio.

Our **Athletics** program offers all students an equal opportunity for active participation, regardless of their athletic ability. Students learn the importance of team work and setting goals as a group while practicing and improving their leadership skills.

The goal of each program is to foster positive self image, encourage personal growth, and instill confidence and high self esteem. More importantly, our programs prepare students with the learning strategies and skills necessary to be successful in today's changing world.



Culture

We all know children that have average to above average intelligence but despite the efforts of the professionals who work with them, have failed to succeed academically because they learn differently. Often, students such as these also have a negative self-esteem and low self-confidence. Calgary Academy recognizes that a school is a dynamic culture that contributes not only to academic growth, but also to personality and character development. Therefore, we take great care to foster an environment that encourages the development of strong interpersonal skills, positive attitudes and behaviors, self confidence, and high self esteem. The highly specialized education programs offered by Calgary Academy enable students to realize their full potential by equipping them with the skills necessary to learn independently. By doing so, students graduate from high school socially stable, confident, and with self esteem intact.

Recognition and reward are essential aspects of the Calgary Academy culture. While strong guidelines and firm, but fair discipline are necessary, experience has taught us that recognition and reward are the strongest incentives in the development of both academic and social skills.

Unlike many organizations, where only the top performers are recognized, Calgary Academy recognizes successes large and small in both academics and character development. Students not only receive recognition for getting the best test score in class, or attaining the highest grade, they can also receive awards for establishing new “personal bests.” In addition, recognition is given for helping a fellow student who is having difficulty, for an unusual courtesy, for innovative ideas and other behavior that demonstrates progress in the development of positive academic and social skills. We believe that recognizing a student for their efforts has the potential to motivate them to try even harder as they create a memory of truly feeling acknowledged.

Calgary Academy students REACH for the best. Students are constantly encouraged to REACH for their personal best.

Respect:

Acceptance, tolerance, patience, understanding, compassion and empathy towards themselves, others and their surroundings

Enthusiasm:

Interest, energy, excitement and eagerness; a passion for living and learning

Altruism:

A concern for the welfare of others without anticipation of reward

Commitment:

The self-motivation to set goals and diligently persevere to achieve them

Honesty:

Truthfulness, sincerity, integrity and genuineness towards themselves and others

These positive character attributes are prominently displayed throughout the school and are integrated into all studies and activities by faculty and staff.

“In all that we do and all that we are, we should constantly strive to REACH for our personal best.”



Faculty

Skilled instructors are critical to our success. Calgary Academy attracts, trains and retains educators with exceptional abilities and dedication. All Calgary Academy teachers are graduates of accredited universities and are licensed by Alberta Learning. The Calgary Academy faculty, like its students, is continually learning and improving its skills through rigorous training and professional development programs. We believe in setting high expectations for our faculty and insist on accountability. We do not grant tenure to our teachers.

These experienced, caring instructors teach small classes in a structured environment. Small classes not only allow greater interaction and more time for attention to each student's needs, they also give students the opportunity to develop strong personal bonds with their teachers. Students quickly view their instructors as facilitators who are there to guide them through the different phases of learning on their journey to independence.

For many of today's students, school is synonymous with frustration and failure. At Calgary Academy, our entire faculty and staff are dedicated to maintaining a culture that gives every student the opportunity to succeed and to enjoy their school experience.



Organization

Dedicated exclusively to education, Calgary Academy is a non-profit, federally registered charity. There are no shareholders; therefore, all revenues in excess of operating expenses are reinvested in the school to provide better facilities and programs for existing and future students. Our governing structure consists of a Board of Directors that includes community leaders, business professionals and educators who volunteer their time, skills and experience to help make Calgary Academy North America's most successful school for exceptional learners. Their primary function is to assist in planning and overseeing specific school improvement projects.

Our executive team is headed by the school's President and CEO, Peter Istvanffy. Mr. Istvanffy is one of the nation's leading educators, with more than 30 years experience as a teacher and administrator. The executive team works closely with the Board of Directors and directs the activity of the school faculty through Academic Directors who are responsible for curriculum administration, student management and the quality of instructional delivery.

The financial stability of Calgary Academy is assured through the combination of fiscally responsible administrators, a cost-efficient facility design and diversified sources of income. Our income is derived from student tuition, student enrollment bonds, alumni contributions and grants from foundations, service clubs, corporations and friends of Calgary Academy. Even with its extensive facilities and significant operating budget, Calgary Academy has no long-term debt. Parents and students can be assured that Calgary Academy has the resources to provide an ongoing, quality educational experience far into the future.





Documented Success

There are many individual success stories in the history of Calgary Academy that can be shared by school representatives. Another measure of success is the graduation and continuing education record of our students.

- More than 95% of our high school students receive diplomas
- Over 90% of the students in our Transitional program go on to post-secondary education
- More than 80% of the students in our Comprehensive program go on to post secondary education

The ultimate goal of Calgary Academy is to provide students with the learning strategies and skills necessary to be successful in today's changing world. Since all of our students will ultimately integrate into other settings, our challenge is to ensure that they have acquired the skills necessary to be successful as students and as productive, contributing members of society.

Be assured that Calgary Academy has the programs, the culture, the professional educators, the facilities and the resources to provide exceptional educational opportunities, both to students who require remedial attention and for those at grade-level seeking to enhance their academic skills. We would be happy to discuss the needs of individual students and to answer any questions you may have about Calgary Academy.