

# CALGARY ACADEMY COLLEGIATE

Established 1996 - Grades 4 to 12

Between Grade 4 and high school graduation, students learn about the world, about other people, and about themselves. At Calgary Academy Collegiate, we believe that this learning experience should be an active rather than a passive exercise.

Our school is a community where students form friendships that will last a lifetime. Our students join teams, participate in drama productions, compete in debating or join one of the many extracurricular activities.

We also expect students to serve others by supporting the less fortunate. These out-of-school pursuits take place within our community as well as internationally.

## Educational Priorities

Two interwoven priorities define the Calgary Academy Collegiate experience: a dynamic program of studies that builds independent learners and an environment that fosters character development and social/emotional growth.

## Academic Program

The academic curriculum is our vehicle for teaching students to:

- ✓ communicate clearly in one or more languages
- ✓ develop various methods of intellectual inquiry
- ✓ recognize the interconnection of school learning and independent learning
- ✓ work independently and in partnership with others
- ✓ develop a global perspective on cultural, social, political, and environmental issues

The academic program promotes excellence in all learning disciplines. Teachers guide and encourage students to master skills, acquire knowledge and think critically, creatively and independently.

Our teachers help students achieve their potential not only intellectually, but also artistically and athletically so that they may lead responsible and fulfilling lives.

# Character Development

The development of character is a responsibility that rests with every member of the school community. In classrooms, on playing fields and in school hallways, the fundamental principles of **Respect**, **Enthusiasm**, **Altruism**, **Commitment** and **Honesty** toward others are consistently reinforced. As part of its commitment to character formation, Calgary Academy Collegiate also engages in food drives, fund-raisers and other activities that benefit the less fortunate in the broader community. For students in Senior High, there are multiple opportunities to engage in activities including community development projects in developing nations. These projects prepare our students to assume leadership roles in an ever-changing world.

## A Culture of Caring

Our school personnel have an unwavering belief in our students. At our school, young people will not only meet important academic goals but also expand their own moral agency. Our students go on to make wise and principled decisions, even when they are on their own – outside of school boundaries.

When staff or students are asked the question, what sort of school do you want? – the response usually comes not in words, but rather in the form of actions, in the way that people treat each other. Visitors to our school consistently comment on the sense of school pride that is so evident in every member of this community. This sense of pride is, indeed, representative of the positive attitude that permeates Calgary Academy Collegiate.

Students new to Calgary Academy Collegiate sometimes ask what they need to do to "fit in." The answer is simple: Be yourself and get involved. What binds everyone together is not just the shared commitment to superior teaching and learning but the supportive atmosphere in the community. We pride ourselves in the fact that there is no "typical" Calgary Academy Collegiate student...no mold to fit. Calgary Academy Collegiate strives to create an environment in which all students can feel connected, proud and at home. The entire Calgary Academy Collegiate community works to ensure that every member of the student body has someone looking out for him or her, in addition to his or her assigned advisor.



## A Spirit of Innovation

The spirit of innovation is visible in the breadth and depth of the curriculum. Our faculty training program prepares teachers to use a comprehensive range of presentation formats, digital tools and other resources to engage students to think critically, paving the way for life-long learning. Instructional presentations range from traditional to high-tech, all with the goal of inspiring, provoking, and stimulating the students. Calgary Academy Collegiate is a leader among its peers in the appropriate use of technology to enhance learning in the classroom.

For students enthusiastic about science, imagine their excitement as they carry out scientific investigations in our digital labs! Students with passion for the arts are given the opportunity to develop and expand their skills in the visual arts, music performance, or theater. Imagine following your talent and passion in the arts by spending time at the easel, with your instrument, or on the stage! Imagine using software to model some of the most complex issues facing society.



*“Genius may be admired, wealth may be envied, power may be feared; but only people of character are trusted” – Author Unknown*



## Creative and Performing Arts

At Calgary Academy Collegiate, we use the arts to assist students to convey knowledge and meaning as an adjunct to the core academic subjects. Students develop a form of thinking that is based in human imagination and judgment. The arts may delight students but they are also intellectual disciplines of substance. Like language or mathematics, the arts involve the use of complex symbols to communicate. To attain competence in the arts, it is necessary to gain literacy with these symbol systems. Some, like music and painting, use non-verbal symbols; others, like poetry and song, use language. Students in Grades 4 to 9 explore Art, Drama, Music and Digital Media throughout the school year. In Grades 10 to 12, students, having been exposed to each of the arts disciplines offered at the school, are expected to specialize in one area. Our teachers engage the students in learning activities that require use of higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Arts education is, first of all, an activity of the mind.

Every child has the innate urge and capacity to be artistically expressive. Arts education requires students to draw upon their creative abilities and to deepen them. Creative thinking lasts for a lifetime and can be applied to other endeavors.



## School Athletics

Physical well being, sportsmanship and the development of positive character have long been explicit goals of the Calgary Academy Collegiate athletic program. Students in Grades 4 to 10 have daily physical education while students in Grades 11 and 12 may choose physical education as an option

Our Junior High extra-curricular athletic program offers all students equal opportunity for participation, regardless of athletic ability. We believe that expecting every Junior High student to participate in at least one extra-curricular athletic activity serves three broad purposes:

- ✓ fun time associated with school and teaching staff
- ✓ fulfillment of, what social psychologists call, the "affiliative" need — friendship, and a sense of belonging
- ✓ favourable outcomes associated with youth development ...sportsmanlike behaviour, ethical decision-making, character development... contributing to good citizenship.

Senior high teams play in very competitive leagues that require significant skill and athletic ability. Playing on senior teams is for accomplished athletes.

## Documented Academic Success

*In 2007, 100% of Calgary Academy Collegiate Grade 12 graduates earned an Alberta High School Diploma and 44% earned Alexander Rutherford Scholarships for Academic Excellence.*

*In 2007, our Grade 12 Graduating Class exceeded the Provincial Average in every course in which diploma examinations were written.*

### What Makes Calgary Academy Collegiate Unique?

- ✓ Our teachers have created a learning environment that celebrates individuality, encourages learning and is highly supportive of all students.
- ✓ Our teachers provide continuous opportunities for all students to participate in leadership, team building, collegial and cooperative learning activities.
- ✓ Our teachers are active learners in a professionally collaborative culture.
- ✓ Our teachers participate in ongoing, comprehensive on-the-job training, based on the latest research on human intelligence, cognitive development and learning processes. They embrace best instructional practice.
- ✓ Our teachers have successfully integrated leading edge, innovative technology into all our classrooms.
- ✓ Our teachers believe every student can and will learn. Each student's unique learning potential is celebrated.



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*“Teachers create the learning environment and the experience we offer is unique.”*

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