



ÉCOLE CAMILLE
J. LEROUGE SCHOOL

Middle School

Transition Handbook

District Mission Statement

Our schools are gospel centered communities of hope, fostering a Catholic Christian value system within a pluralistic society.

School Mission Statement

We, the parents, students and staff of École Camille J. Lerouge, believe that Catholic education is a vehicle guided by the light of Christ in a continuous lifelong journey. Our aim is to promote the spiritual, academic, social, physical and emotional growth of our students in a bilingual setting characterized by respect, love and understanding.

We are guided in our actions by Alberta Education guidelines and the Red Deer Catholic District Mission Statement.

Our school motto is "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE."

Current School Contacts

Mrs. Sinead Armstrong	Principal
Mme Erika Pottage	Vice Principal
Mme Cynthia Campbell	Vice Principal
Mrs. Christy Magill	School Counsellor
Mme Julie Masson	Family School Enhancement Counsellor
School Phone	403-347-7830
School Website	camilleschool.ca

Introduction

The staff and students of École Camille J. Lerouge School would like to thank you for choosing our school community. We are very proud of our school and are confident you will continue to enjoy your time at École Camille J. Lerouge School.

Red Deer Catholic School Division implemented the Middle School Philosophy in 2003, and the purpose of this handbook is to help answer questions regarding the transition to middle school within Red Deer Catholic, specifically École Camille J. Lerouge School. We hope this handbook will ease the uncertainty students may feel in transitioning from elementary to middle school.

Philosophy of Ecole Camille J. Lerouge School

The middle school years are recognized as an important time when students develop their self image and center their attitudes towards learning. Relationship building can play a large role in this process and we aim to create learning experiences that will further students' social and moral development while providing academic excellence. The middle school years span sixth to ninth grades and represent the passage from childhood into young adulthood. Sixth grade resembles elementary school in that it is more self-contained but provides a transitional phase during which sixth grade students interact with older students through common activities and experiences. Ninth grade resembles more of a high school model, and students are transitioned in preparation for high school success.

École Camille J. Lerouge is a closed campus. **NO STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AT ANY TIME DURING THE DAY UNLESS ON SCHOOL MATTERS AND ACCOMPANIED BY A TEACHER/SUPERVISING ADULT.** A student must be accompanied by an adult if leaving during the day. Except for school matters, **all** students must be signed out by a parent or guardian at the office when leaving the school. If your child is sick or going on holidays, please notify the office to advise why your child will not be at school.

Programs

➤ Core Classes

We offer all of the core classes mandated by Alberta Education. Our school operates on a six day timetable. Students in grade 6 will study English/French Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math, Religion, Physical Education (P.E.), Health, Band and Fine Arts.

➤ PowerSchool

Each student and parent will receive a username and a passcode to set up PowerSchool accounts in the fall. With this you will have access to your child's updated marks and comments from their teachers. It is a useful tool to track your child's progress, missing assignments, etc.

➤ TAG (Teacher Advisory Group)

Each student will be assigned to a grade level TAG, which will be their homeroom class. TAG groups meet regularly for activities and church celebrations. The TAG teacher is also the first line of contact for parents. TAG classes are also teamed with "family groups", which is another class from another grade, for special projects and activities.

➤ **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Middle school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities for students to further their experience. École Camille J. Lerouge School offers activities such as: Ski and Snowboard Club, Jazz Band, Music Ministry, Aquathon, B.E.A.U.T.I.F.U.L. Girls Club, The Edge, Healthy Relationships Plus group, C.A.L.D Leadership group, and Intramurals to name a few.

Students in grade six will have the opportunity to try out for the Junior teams within our competitive athletics league. These teams include volleyball, basketball, badminton and track and field. The tryout times are communicated through announcements and displayed in the PowerSchool daily bulletin.

Students are highly encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities as it provides other opportunities to explore areas of interest and it helps students become part of the school culture and will make their time at École Camille J. Lerouge School more enjoyable.

Comparison of Elementary and Middle School

Elementary	Middle School
Few teachers each day	More teachers each day
Few sports teams	Many after school sports teams
Lower elementary eat lunch in class	Eat lunch in cafeteria where you can buy hot lunch
Lockers without locks	Lockers with locks
Recess breaks each day	Short breaks between classes, and a lunch recess
Teachers move to your class	You move to the teacher's class
Youngest in the school	Opportunity for cross-age activities such as tutoring and being a role model for younger kids.

Grade 6 Supply List can be accessed on-line at our school website:

camilleschool.ca

***NOTE:** Some teachers may have specific notebook needs. A locker organizer is of benefit to many students. Students must have a gym strip that includes: shirt, shorts, and non-marking gym shoes.

Grade 6 Student Comments

- "I was worried about locks on lockers, but now it is no problem."
- "I was worried about fitting in, but now I have found the perfect group of friends."
- "I was worried about having no friends and not being able to meet new people. Now I am OK because I have lots of friends in the school."
- "I was wondering if I would like it and it's actually quite fun with all the class changes and new opportunities that are offered including clubs like the basketball team."
- "I was wondering what it would be like to switch classes, but now I don't even remember what it is like in elementary."
- "I was worried about finding my classes, but after one week, I knew where every room was."
- "I was worried to go to middle school but now I love it because you meet more people."
- "I wondered how harsh the staff would be, but now I know they are very nice."
- "Great staff, good food at the cafeteria for dirt cheap, good environment, good physical education just about every day, and the teachers are really cool!"