

Marion Carson School Open House 玛丽恩·卡森学校开放日

K-6 Community English Program and
K-4 Mandarin Bilingual Program

January 8, 2026

learning | as unique | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education



Agenda

- Introductions
- Marion Carson School Information
- Alternative \ Language Programs
- Registration Information
- Mandarin Bilingual Program
- Transportation
- Other information



Introduction of School Staff

- Dustin Turner, Principal
- Huong Ly, Assistant Principal
- Amanda Collins, Learning Leader
- Payge Saretsky, Learning Leader
- Shu Wang, Learning Leader
- Karina Pimentel Coelho, Administrative Secretary
- Elaine Gascoine, Office Secretary



Marion Carson School Information

- Programs:
 - Regular English K-6
 - Mandarin Bilingual K-4
- Integrated Mandarin Bilingual and Community English Programs for physical education, music, and most special events / field trips
- Music, Physical Education and Resource teacher available for all students
- The Mandarin Bilingual Program - 50% English and 50% Mandarin Chinese Instruction



Marion Carson School Information (cont'd)

- Yearly Residencies (past examples include residences focusing on Dance, Music, Performing Arts, Acting Living, and Artist in Residence)
- Transportation through congregated drop-off and pick-up stops
- Before and After School Care
 - Briar Hill (grades 1-6)
 - Pre-Kindergarten (Kindergarten student enhancement)
- School Fees:
 - Noon and transportation fees to be determined yearly by CBE
 - Field trip and in-house school fees determined by school
 - Additional costs may be incurred for performances or other learning opportunities.



Marion Carson School Information (cont'd)

- Registration information is available online through www.cbe.ab.ca.
- Lottery System will be used for the Kindergarten and grade 1 Mandarin Bilingual Program but NOT for Regular English Program.
- Grade 2-4 Mandarin Bilingual Program New Registrations
 - Application Process requires an appointment to assess your child's English and Mandarin Literacy skills if space is available in the requested grade.
- Kindergarten for Community English Program: A.M. and P.M. determined by registration number (A.M. first)
- Kindergarten for Mandarin Bilingual has alternate days (M/W or Tu/Th determined by transportation designation).



Current School Hours

Grade 1 to Grade 6

Monday to Thursday

- 9:05am - 9:13am: Soft Entry
- 9:13am: Classes Begin
- 9:13am – 12:30pm Morning Classes
- 12:30pm – 1:11pm: *Split Lunch / Lunch Recess
- 1:11pm - 3:45pm: Afternoon Classes
- 3:45pm: Dismissal
- *14 minute morning movement & nutrition break

Fridays

- 9:13 am – 1:20 pm
- *20-minute morning movement & nutrition break
- *Please note: These hours are subject to change pending scheduling circumstances.**



Current School Hours

Kindergarten

AM Kindergarten (Community English Program) Half Days

- *Monday to Thursday: 9:13 AM – 12:02 PM*
- *Select Fridays - see school calendar: 9:13 AM – 1:20 PM*

Kindergarten (Mandarin Bilingual Program) Alternate Full Days

- **Group A** Mondays, Wednesdays: 9:13 AM – 3:45 PM
- **Group B** Tuesdays, Thursdays: 9:13 AM – 3:45 PM
- *Lunch 12:36 PM – 1:11 PM*
- *Select Fridays - see school calendar: 9:13 AM – 1:20 PM*

***Please note:** These hours are subject to change pending scheduling circumstances.



Additional Information

A Marion Carson School Student demonstrates...

- respect for self, others, and the environment
- self-management and organizational skills
- participation in positive social interactions and takes an active role when engaging in problem solving, acts of citizenship and service
- acceptance of a rigorous academic environment
- willingness to pursue excellence across all disciplines of the Alberta Programs of Study
- a willingness to work independently
- a commitment to learning and building a positive school community for all
- characteristics that honour and respect cultural diversity
- an eagerness to develop intercultural awareness and a global mindset
- a sense of belonging in an active community within and beyond the school



Parent and Student Commitments

- When you register your child in either program, you are committed to the **program philosophy and all components** of the program and will support your child in meeting program expectations.
- For example:
 - Homework
 - Fees
 - Attendance
 - On-site events and off-site field trips



Alternative Programs in CBE

We have 8 distinct alternative programs in multiple sites:

- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Boys
- All Girls
- Languages (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Montessori
- Science
- Traditional Learning Centre (TLC)



Why Alternative Programs?

- Providing families choices to meet the unique learning needs of each student
- Language Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (Arts, Science), or teaching philosophy
- Informed choice is essential – what is THIS particular program about and how does it meet MY child's needs?



Key Messages

- Each program has unique features
- Integrity of the program remains the same across sites
- All sites follow Alberta Programs of Study with ATA certificated teachers
- All schools requiring a lottery follow the CBE lottery process
- Aligned with system timeframe for registration



Learning Another Language (Benefits)

- Enables students to further develop their literacy, problem solving, and memory skills while building confidence and pride in learning another language
- Strengthens English literacy skills. Children who learn an additional language show either comparable or enhanced first-language literacy skills
- Provides students with more choices for advanced education and career options. Allows students to compete internationally as it gives them an edge in the global job market
- Expands the intellect
- Teaches responsible citizenship
- Develops enhanced feelings of self-esteem and pride in having acquired an additional language
- Encourages the joy of lifelong learning
- Promotes exploration, understanding and appreciation of the many different cultures around the world and contributes to multilingualism and multiculturalism. Broadens students' cultural life through access to literature, art, music and theatre in another language



Watch your child
become fluent.

C is for **Cat** 猫

A Mandarin Bilingual Education, Your Gateway to the World.

Empowered. Globally competent. Equipped to actively participate in the world.

Who Can Register

- Children entering kindergarten or Grade 1.
- Previous exposure to the language is not required and parents do not need to know the language.
- Students with previous target language experience may start the Mandarin Bilingual program at other grade levels. In the case of an alternate entry point, parents will reach out to the school directly to arrange an appointment for language assessment for suitable placement.



Watch your child
become fluent.

C is for ~~Cat~~ 猫



Taught in Mandarin

Mandarin Language Arts, Mathematics
and Science
K - 6

Taught in English

50% - 50%



Mandarin Language Arts and
Mathematics
7 - 9

35%

Marion Carson School Information (cont'd)

Characteristics of the Chinese (Mandarin) Bilingual Program:

- Chinese Language Arts is taught in Mandarin
- Simplified Chinese script is taught beginning in Kindergarten
- The Han Yu Pin Yin pronunciation system is taught to accelerate the process of learning to read in Chinese
- Math and Science are taught in Mandarin
- English Language Arts is taught in English
- All remaining subjects are taught in Mandarin or English or bilingually as determined by schools / teaching team



Marion Carson School Information

The Mandarin Bilingual Classroom

Presents opportunities to learn and share information and experiences in multiple ways

Differences

- Strong focus on development of language and culture
- Integrate language and culture into holistic, global perspective
- Grounded in current language research
- Respect and promote diversity of cultural groups represented within the target language
- Promotes language skill acquisition and development
- Students should have a high interest in and passion for languages

Similarities

- Alberta Programs of Study, Daily PE, Character, Citizenship, Personal Development



Registration Information

Current Communities Attending Marion Carson School

K-6 Community English Program

- Must be a resident of the community of Varsity

K-4 Chinese (Mandarin) Bilingual Program (lottery process)

- Must be a resident within one of the communities on the following slide

*Exception for Kindergarten





Lottery Process

What Is Lottery

A lottery is a way to equitably enrol students when a school, program or grade is identified to be at or over capacity.

As Calgary continues to grow and evolve, so does our student population, which means some schools or programs may reach capacity. Meaning some schools must run lotteries.

Lotteries ensure fair and equitable access to schools, programs (regular or alternative), or grades when student populations are at capacity or over capacity. Schools usually conduct lotteries for the grade of entry (for example, kindergarten or Grade 10), but they may also need to hold lotteries for specific grades or programs.

The lottery happens in February.



Lottery Zone Maps (Search the School of Interest)

Schools With A Program In Lottery

Several CBE schools have limited capacity for new students. This means we may need to hold a lottery to ensure that all students wishing to attend the school have an opportunity to do so. Review the list below to see if the school(s) you are applying to are listed and register before Feb. 10, 2026, at noon (12 PM). If your designated regular program is listed below, review the [overflow schools list](#) to see where students who are unsuccessful in the lottery will be overflowed.

Note | The list below may change between now and Feb. 10, 2026. It's important to register before the cut-off date to secure your spot in a lottery draw; if the school does not need to run one, your place will be guaranteed.

Lottery Zones

Lottery zones are one factor used to establish priority in the lottery process. To review whether you are within or outside the lottery zone, please select your school from the drop-down menu and then select the map file.

Select a School to View Lottery Zone Map:

Search

2026 - 2027

Regular Program

Alternative Programs

Dept. Name

(editable sidebar)



K-4 Chinese (Mandarin Bilingual Program Communities

- Ambleton
- Arbour Lake
- Aspen Woods
- Bowness
- Canada Olympic Park
- Carrington
- Christie Park
- Citadel
- Coach Hill
- Cougar Ridge
- Crestmont
- Dalhousie
- Edgemont
- Evanston
- Glacier Ridge
- Greenwood/
Greenbriar
- Hamptons
- Hawkwood
- Haskayne
- Hidden Valley
- Kincora
- Livingston
- Macewan
- Montgomery
- Nolan Hill
- Osprey
- Parkdale
- Patterson
- Point McKay
- Prominence Point
- Ranchlands
- Rockland
- Rocky Ridge
- Rosscarrock
- Royal Oak
- Royal Vista
- Sage Hill
- Scenic Acres
- Shaganappi
- Sherwood
- Springs
- Tuscany
- Spruce Cliff
- St. Andrews Heights
- Strathcona Park
- University Heights
- University of Calgary
- University District
- Valley Ridge
- Varsity
- West Hillhurst
- West Springs
- Westgate
- Wildwood
- Simons Valley

*** Please refer to Find A School on the CBE website for the most up to date list.

Lottery Process

- Where a program is oversubscribed the lottery process will be employed

Priority levels influence your chance of being offered a place at a lottery school. If unsuccessful in the lottery, students are placed on a callback list in order of priority level.

Priority 1

- Students living within the lottery zone who have a sibling (brother/sister [half or step, not cousins]) that will be attending the same program in the same school; concurrently (occurring or existing simultaneously).

Priority 2

- Students living outside the lottery zone but in the designated area for the school, who will have a sibling in the same program at the same school concurrently; or
- Students living within the lottery zone who do not have a sibling in the school.

Priority 3

- All other students living in the designated attendance area.



Program Registration Information

New to CBE

- Legal guardians / parents who **do not** have a child currently enrolled in CBE.
 - Go to [SchoolEngage](#)
 - Click Create Account button
 - Complete the Account form
 - Check your email for confirmation. Click on the confirmation link
 - Sign in to SchoolEngage
 - Add a student
 - Complete the applicable registration form

Have a MYCBE Account

- Already have a student enrolled in CBE
 - Sign in to [MyCBE](#) or create a MyCBE account
 - Click on the SchoolEngage icon (in left menu)
 - Add a student
 - Complete the applicable registration form



Program Registration Information (cont'd)

- Registration information is available online through www.cbe.ab.ca. Please visit the [CBE Kindergarten to Grade 9 Registration](#) webpage for more information about how to register. [Registration forms](#) must be completed online.
- If offered a spot in the program, you will then need to complete any missing or required information. If accepted to the program, your acceptance will be made on a conditional basis, dependent on the submission of all required documents.
- Children who do not have Canadian citizenship **must** begin their registration process at the [CBE's Welcome Centre](#) at 403-817-7789 or welcome@cbe.ab.ca





Name NOT Drawn in the Lottery

- If the student's name was not drawn in the lottery process for an alternative program, they will **attend their designated regular program** school.
- If you select more than one alternative program, **each school will notify you** whether you have been accepted.
- If you were not accepted into any of the lottery schools, you will attend your designated regular program school.
- Students registering for **an alternative program** after the lottery draw must register for their designated regular program school, as no additional spaces will be available for the next school year.

Timeline for Registration

- Registration will begin January 12, 2026 for the 2026-27 school year
- Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 10, 2026](#))
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 11, 2026](#)).
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days
 - Teacher's Convention counts as business days, weekends and Family Day does not
 - As with the last two years, the goal is to have it out by the 23 (7 business days)
- In the initial offers, parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance letter
- ***If child is born after December 31, 2021 then they are too young for Kindergarten.**



Registration is Online | New and Current CBE Students

www.cbe.ab.ca

 **Calgary Board
of Education**

Careers | News Centre | Staff | QuickLinks

 Search  Translate

Schools
▼

Programs
▼

Registration
▼

About Us
▼

Get Involved
▼

Registration
New Student Registration
[Alternative Programs](#)
New School Under Construction
Lottery
Registration Documentation
Browse All ->

Fees & Waivers
Central Fee Waiver
Flexible Payment Options
Find My School Fees
Fee Information Questions and Answers
Fees, Sales and Services Terms and Conditions
School Fees Background
Browse All ->

Records & Transcripts
Transfers
Forms You Need
Back to School

Calendars
Instructional Calendar
Unique Settings
Dates of Significance
Bell Times
Browse All ->



Current CBE Students

Expression of Interest | Schools Engage

Alternative Programs

Select One Of The Following Options

I Want To Register A Child	Moving From One Program To Another
I have other children in the CBE and I want to register another child for an alternative program	My child is already registered in one program (regular or alternative) and I would like to move to a different program (regular or alternative)
Start Registration	Move Programs

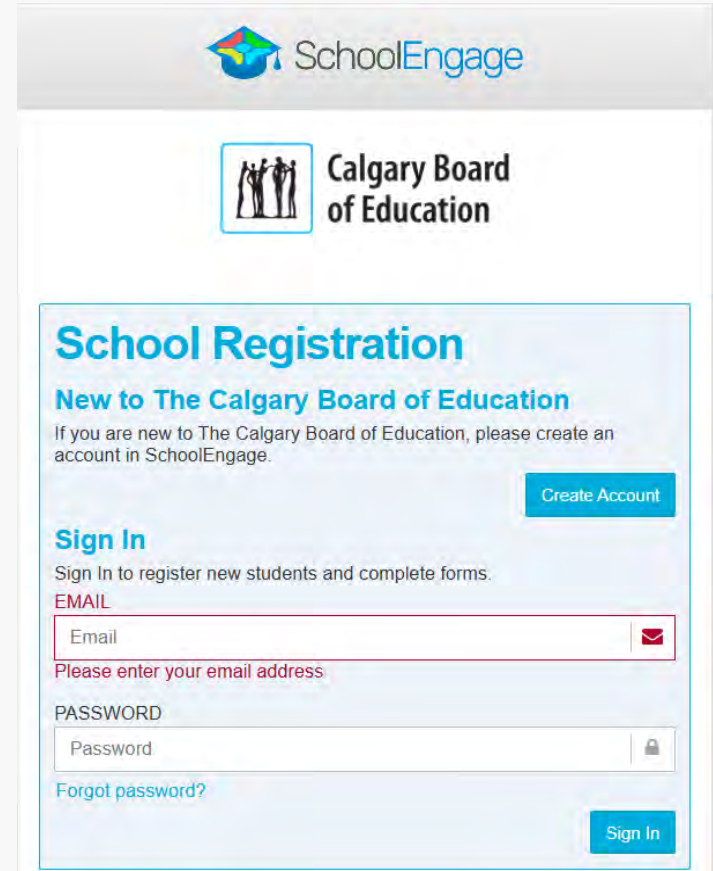
Program Selection

Select One

Alternative Program	Regular Program	International Baccalaureate Programme (IB)
I am seeking to move in to an Alternative Program.	I am seeking to move into the Regular Program	I am seeking to move into the IB Programme
Alternative Program	Regular Program	IB Program

Registration is Online with School Engage

- The registration form is approximately 16 tabs
- Ensure you have a few minutes to fill these out
- You may SAVE and return to the form
- Required documents prior to beginning your forms



The screenshot shows the SchoolEngage website interface. At the top, there is a header with the SchoolEngage logo (a colorful graduation cap) and the text "SchoolEngage". Below this, on the left, is the Calgary Board of Education logo (a blue square with white silhouettes of people) and the text "Calgary Board of Education". The main content area is titled "School Registration" in large blue font. Below this, it says "New to The Calgary Board of Education" in blue. A paragraph follows: "If you are new to The Calgary Board of Education, please create an account in SchoolEngage." To the right of this paragraph is a blue button labeled "Create Account". Below this section is a "Sign In" section. It starts with the heading "Sign In" in blue, followed by the text "Sign In to register new students and complete forms." Below this is the label "EMAIL" in red. There is a text input field for email with a red border and a red envelope icon on the right. Below the field is the text "Please enter your email address" in red. Below the email field is the label "PASSWORD" in blue. There is a text input field for password with a grey border and a lock icon on the right. Below the password field is the text "Forgot password?" in blue. At the bottom right of the sign-in section is a blue button labeled "Sign In".

Registration Documentation

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Prior to starting the registration process you will require the following information:

- **Proof of primary address:**

Where the child resides. It must include the parent / legal guardian / independent student name.

Examples include: bank statement, driver's licence, GST rebate, utility bill, home or renters insurance, income tax statement, mortgage statement, property tax assessment or the Canada Revenue Agency letter

- **Child's proof of age, citizenship and legal name:**

Examples include: Alberta Birth Certificate, Canadian Birth Certificate, Canadian passport, Canadian Citizenship Card, Canadian Citizenship Certificate, Confirmation of Permanent Residence or the Canadian Certificate of Indian Status

- **A selfie** with the legal guardian / parent government issued photo identification

Additional documentation may be required:

- **Custody / Guardianship**

- **Student Health Form**

- **Student Assessment**

Students who are not Canadian citizens will be contacted after registration by the [CBE Welcome Centre](#).

Alternative Programs | Expression of Interest

Below is the process for submitting an Expression of Interest for a school not in lottery. This process applies to students currently enrolled in kindergarten to Grade 8. Students currently enrolled and in Grades 9 to 11 must follow [the High School Transfer Process](#).

Complete An Expression of Interest With These 5 Steps

1

Sign In to MyCBE

Open MyCBE 

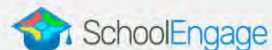
*This process is only for currently enrolled K-8 students. High school students must complete the High School Transfer Process.

Refer to [SchoolEngage Support](#) for detailed steps.

2

Open SchoolEngage

In MyCBE navigate to



SchoolEngage is located in the left menu.

3

Complete the Online Expression of Interest Form

Find and select the online Expression of Interest Form.

Read the information and complete all the fields in the form.

Tip

Remember to hit the green **Submit** button at the end of the form to ensure it has been fully completed.

4

Completed Form Sent to School for Processing

Please be patient as the school works through all their completed Expression of Interest Forms.

School staff will contact you if there are any questions or concerns.

Please do not call the school.





Communication from the school(s)

- We encourage you to wait until you hear if you were successful in the lottery from every school to which you expressed interest.
- Once you accept a placement, **you may not receive any further offers.**
- All offers of placement or confirmation that you were not successful will **come through SchoolEngage.**



More About Current Transportation

- Individual stop information will be available to families who have pre-registered for transportation for the 2026-2027 school year through [MyCBE / PowerSchool](#).
- Students are currently assigned to one stop based on their home address.
- Mandarin Bilingual Kindergarten class placement is full days Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday with additional alternating early dismissal Fridays.
- If riding a bus, students should begin riding the bus on the first day of school
- Parents are responsible to ensure students travel to and from the existing bus stops safely; kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop by an adult
- [My 1st Ride](#) is a program typically offered in May for students new to riding the bus. Watch the website linked above for information.
- Please visit the [CBE's Transportation for Alternative Programs](#) webpage for more information.



Transportation Considerations

- K-5 yellow bus transportation provided following CBE congregated stop guidelines for alternative programs
- Transportation for grades 6-9 may be offered through congregated yellow bus stops or Calgary Transit (no rebates provided)
- Parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- Pre-registration for transportation, online through **MyCBE Account**, is essential so that your address can be considered when routes/stops are planned
- Congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through **MyCBE/PowerSchool**
- Congregated stops may not be within walking distance, alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop



Dept. Name

(editable sidebar)

Current Transportation Fees

Transportation Fees 2025-2026 (yet to be confirmed for 2026-2027 school year)

Transportation K- 6 Community English

Gr. 1 – 6 (lives 2.4km or more away) = \$360
 Gr. 1 - 6 (lives less than 2.4km away) = \$360
 Kindergarten = \$180

Transportation K-4 Mandarin Bilingual

Gr. 1-6 = \$360
 Kindergarten = \$180

- In 2025-26, CBE offered an alternate address option for families looking to request a change to a different congregated stop. There was an additional \$180 fee for this service.
 - CBE Transportation determines if the request can be accommodated. If it is approved, the second address will be used in the creation of new bus routes.
- These fees are reviewed annually each spring by Board of Trustees and are subject to change. Visit <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/fees-and-waivers/Pages/default.aspx> for the most up to date information.**

Other Fees



Other Fees

Instructional Supplies & Materials (ISM)

K = \$20, Gr. 1-6 = \$40

Incidental lunchroom fee

K = \$5, Gr. 1-6 = \$10

Field trip fees (*estimate of what is collected as required throughout the year)

K= ~\$75, Gr. 1-5 = ~\$150
Grade 6 = \$550 (outdoor camp)

- Additional costs may be incurred for school-related field trips, performances and other learning and enrichment opportunities
- **These fees are reviewed annually each spring by Board of Trustees and are subject to change. Please visit <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/fees-and-waivers/Pages/default.aspx> for the most updated information on fees.**

School Council: Who we are? What we do? How can you be involved?

Parent Sponsored Activities:

- Welcome Back Events (Cookies and Conversation)
- Family dances
- Special Lunches & Treat days
- Staff Appreciation
- Bus Driver Appreciation
- Movie Nights
- Bake Sale

Fund raising supports:

- Residency Projects (Art, Drama, Dance)
- School Identified needs – Technology, Extension materials and Resources
- School Wide Field trips
- Park initiatives
- Marion's Meadow maintenance / upkeep



Volunteers

- Volunteers are an important part of Elementary schools
- Some examples of where you can volunteer:
 - to supervise some of our fieldtrips and in-school programs
 - to assist with some events and this is sometimes coordinated by our School Council
 - to help in classrooms
- **ALL** volunteers must have a valid Police Security Clearance, and complete an annual Volunteer Registration form for the school. We encourage parents to apply early.
- How to apply?
 - Preferred method is through your School Engage account using the registration form and voucher system (currently no cost to families when you have a child attending the school).
 - If you do not have School Engage (such as if you don't have a child at the school, then you apply by coming into the school office with your Photo I.D. (Example: grandparent wishing to volunteer) - cost to family.



Questions?

- Whole group questions, please ask now
- Personal and Specific questions: please wait to ask administration who will stay in the gym while tours are occurring



Tours

1. Community English Program parents with Ms. Saretsky
2. Mandarin Bilingual Program parents with Ms. Wang



Thank you for participating in the
Marion Carson School Open House

谢谢大家!

