

Mission Statement
For St. Albert Logos Program

- Sustained by Christ's teachings and God's love, students, taught in a spiritually nurturing, intellectually challenging and disciplined environment, acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and training necessary to seek after "whatsoever is true."
- Students develop binding commitments to their families, neighbours, country and global community while leading moral, healthy and productive lives.

What is a Logos Program?

- Christian-based program of choice
- Alberta curriculum
- Christian environment
 - Mission Statement
 - Distinguishing features
 - Christian principles
 - Program goals
 - Operations

Background

- Until now, public school supporters wanting their children educated in a Christian environment have had to send them to private Christian schools at considerable expense, enroll them in a Catholic school, or home school them.
- *School Act* (1988) Section 16:
 1. In this section “alternative program” means an education program that (a) emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject matter, or (b) uses a particular teaching philosophy.
 2. If a board determines that there is sufficient demand for a particular program, the board may offer that program to those students whose parents enroll them in the program.
- *Logos* means “The Word” or “Second Person of the Trinity.” It is Greek and comes from the Gospel of John.

Description of St. Albert Logos Program

- The Logos alternative program is based on instruction within a Christian environment grounded on Christian principles. A fundamental purpose is to support the biblical values and provide opportunities for active community service. To this end, a teacher in this program will be expected to bring a Christian viewpoint to issues and topics from all curricular areas.
- The Christian environment is sustained through daily activities such as prayer, songs and readings, and periodic assemblies with a Christian perspective. Bible memory work is also a part of the program. The faith-based activities will be of a nondenominational character and will be spiritually sustaining and nurturing.

Description (continued)

- The curriculum is prescribed by Alberta Learning and, as with all programs, there will be standards of achievement and measurable objectives for each grade level.
- Parents are encouraged to support the goals, mission statement, methods and practices of the Logos program, as well as show their support in helping students maintain effective work habits, do their homework, and show consistent appropriate behaviour.
- Parents are expected to provide encouragement to their children in focusing on learning and in working cooperatively with the teachers.
- Logos classrooms and regular classrooms may be mixed throughout the school in accordance with the need for effective use of space. Logos program students are encouraged to be involved in school sports, music and special interest clubs. Logos students have recess and lunch at the same time as other students and mix naturally on the playground. Depending on the number of students at the school (Logos and regular), some of the option subjects may be taken together. The core subjects are usually taken as separate Logos classes.

Principles of the St. Albert Protestant Schools Logos Program

The Logos program bases its standards upon the following principles:

1. God is our creator who knows and loves each one of us.
2. God has provided, through the Bible, certain values, standards of behaviour and fundamental truths, particularly in passages such as the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:6). These values, standards of behaviour and fundamental truths are to guide us in living out our lives. Truth is not relative and, therefore, not based simply on each person's opinion.
3. Although we all make mistakes, or commit sins, we can be forgiven because Jesus, the Son of God, offered Himself as payment for our sins, and is alive today to strengthen us through His Holy Spirit. Just as He forgives us for our sins, so must we forgive others who hurt us or sin against us.
4. We are on this earth to love God and serve Him by caring for and serving our fellow human beings.

Principles (continued)

5. God works in our lives and in the lives of those around us, and throughout our world as we spend time with Him in prayer and studying scripture.

Conditions

- Staff understand and accept their responsibilities for educating children in a Christian environment.
- Teachers teach the Alberta curriculum and incorporate Christian principles in their lessons.
- Staff and students respect other religious faiths and do not judge merits of particular theological positions.
- All students are welcome.

Physical Environment

- A Logos classroom will portray the Christian values taught in the class.

Logos Program Operations

- Will operate under the jurisdiction and authority of St. Albert Protestant Schools.
- Will have a Steering Committee of seven laypersons with no more than two from one denomination for developing the program.
- Will have a school council representative.
- Will serve K-9 students providing there are sufficient registrations at each level.
- Will have a designated school leader.
- May be in more than one site (as space is needed).

Distinguishing Feature:

Underlying Beliefs

- The mission of education is to equip students with the wisdom, knowledge, and skills that will empower them to live joyfully in relationship with God, fulfilling their personal potential and working with others to enhance local communities, the global society, and all of God's creation.
- As we share our faith with our children, we create cultural continuity, a sense of history, and an acceptance of the future.

Distinguishing Feature (continued)

Christian education needs to train young people to critique their world and seek ways of improving it. Making education a deeply moral task means equipping them with a spiritual vision and values so they can learn to ask the right questions and acquire the moral passion to seek solutions. In short, education means developing in them the wisdom to discern life-affirming paths.

Logos Program Common Questions

The following is a list of commonly asked questions by parents at public meetings held by the Elk Island Logos Society. Responses are reflective of what is occurring in schools housing the Edmonton Logos Program.

1. What is the difference between a Logos program and a Christian program offered by a private school?

There are a number of important differences between these two programs. The Logos program does not include a separate Christian Education or religion class, as is offered at Christian private schools. The Logos program is not a religious education; it is an education wherein the same Christian values that are being taught at home create the foundation upon which the Logos program is built. The Logos program is housed in existing public schools where students would have access to the same excellent educational systems as regular program students and would not be segregated from students with differing religious or cultural backgrounds. Finally, as it is offered by the public school system, the program is more accessible than a private school, which may charge tuition and limit enrolment.

2. Is learning assistance provided, and can special needs students access this program?

Learning assistance is provided to the same extent as in the regular public school program.

3. Is discipline handled in the same manner as in a regular classroom?

Within the context of the school and school district, discipline policies for the Logos program would follow the regulations set out by the School Act (1988), as with all public school programs offered by this district. Teachers have the freedom to set guidelines within the context of those regulations, and with respect to the context of those regulations. With respect to the Logos program teachers

Logos Program Common Questions (Continued)

would use biblical principles as a tool when setting guidelines within the classroom and when responding to specific circumstances with students.

4. Will this program be offered to high school students?

The Logos program is offered for kindergarten through grade nine.

5. Is there a feeling of segregation in schools housing the regular program and the Logos program and have there been any problems with conflict between students in the two programs?

There has been a real effort by parents, students and staff to create a community atmosphere within the school at large. A positive atmosphere has existed in schools where Logos classrooms have been integrated throughout the school. When hiring teachers for the Logos program, an effort is made to find teachers that would form bridges with the regular program staff. An increase in parent volunteers has also encouraged a positive, cooperative atmosphere within the schools.

6. Do Logos students participate in the schools' Halloween celebrations?

No. Where the regular program students have wanted to participate in Halloween parties, Logos students have taken the opportunity to participate in alternate activities.

7. How do Christmas celebrations differ between the two programs?

Christmas celebrations, which include the entire school, are encouraged in order to foster a harmonious school atmosphere. The Logos classrooms would clearly show Christmas as a Christian celebration.

8. Will potentially offensive materials be removed from the libraries in schools housing the Logos program?

Books that are deemed acceptable to the regular program would remain in the library, e.g. books on Halloween. We believe that parents and teachers of the Logos program should work together in education their children on how to make responsible decisions regarding reading material, television programs, music, and any other media. There will, however, be an opportunity to increase reading material that emphasizes the Christian perspective in the form of donations and through the regular purchasing of new materials by the schools.

Logos Program Common Questions (Continued)

9. Will Logos teachers only teach core subjects?

If there are an adequate number of registrations to warrant hiring separate teachers for subjects such as music, physical education, and other optional courses, they will be taught by Logos teachers. Otherwise, regular program teachers will teach any optional courses.

10. Who teachers in the Logos program?

Administration and teachers have been chosen on the basis of their support for the objectives of the Logos program.