



2020-2021

Name:

Homeroom:



AURORA ACADEMIC
CHARTER SCHOOL

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Overview of Aurora Academic Charter School

History

The word “Aurora” is of Latin origin and means: “the rising light of morning; dawn of day; a beginning.” This meaning exemplifies the spirit and attitude of parents who believe Aurora Academic to be a new beginning for their children. Aurora Academic was established by a like-minded group of Edmonton parents in February, 1996. It is our belief that children have a right to be taught well and to be fully challenged. The primary focus is on the academic subjects with additional attention being paid to meaningful options.

Goals

1. To have an enhanced language arts program
2. To have an enhanced mathematics program

The primary student learning outcomes of Aurora Academic are:

1. That students, on average, are reading above grade level in language arts
2. That students, on average, are achieving above grade level in mathematics

The Facility

Aurora Academic Charter School is located at 12245 – 131 Street in Edmonton and our phone number is 780-454-1855. This building was constructed in 3 phases, the first in 1954 the second in 1963, and the third in 2016. The Elementary school has bright, spacious classrooms, one gym, one multi-use space, a learning commons, soccer fields, and use of the Community League playground and ice rink. The new elementary entrance will be completed in the fall of 2020.

Board of Directors

The school is governed by an elected Board of Directors, comprised of five to seven members, which is responsible for the overall governance of the school and acts as the final arbiter on issues related to the school’s operation.

School Administration

Aurora Academic consists of two schools. There is one Principal and one Assistant Principal for Elementary, and one Principal and two Assistant Principals for Middle School. Elementary includes Kindergarten to Grade 4 and Middle School includes Grade 5 through 9. This administrative structure benefits our students and school results.

School Council

Through the School Council, parents and the school community have an opportunity to advise and consult with the principal on any matter relating to the school. All parents are automatically members.

The School Council is an association of parents, teachers, principals, and community representatives who work together to promote the well-being and effectiveness of the entire school community and thereby enhance student learning.

Fundraising

Aurora Academic is a public charter school and receives provincial funding similar to other Alberta public schools. Tuition fees are not charged.

Fundraising is everyone’s responsibility. Our fundraising needs are met primarily by the Fundraising Society.

This school is a non-profit public corporation and is registered with Revenue Canada. As such, the school is able to issue tax receipts to all contributors who wish to support Aurora School’s fundraising efforts through cash donations.

Medical

Aurora is a peanut-aware school. Aurora requires that parents provide any medical information about their children that may affect their participation or academic studies. Please keep online records up-to-date and notify the homeroom teacher as well. The school will not normally dispense medication to students. The school will respond to life-threatening

emergencies as required by Bill 201, (Protection of Students with life-threatening Allergies Act). For further information, please contact the Principal and refer to Policy No. 6101 available on our website.

COVID-19 and other Contagious Illnesses

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the school will need to be flexible and ready to adjust to changing conditions and instructions from the Alberta Health Services. Please be aware that the policies and plans outlined in this Student Agenda book may change with very little notice and any health related instructions from the Alberta Health Services will supersede any previous plans and policies. Continue to monitor the school website for the most updated information..

Whole School Communication

Aurora Academic communicates important information via an automated phone callout system or email communication. The automated system can send information out to the whole school in five minutes and school is an important part of our communication network which consists of homework books, emails, newsletters, and our website.

Newsletters are posted online on the 1st of every month.

Transportation

Yellow school bus service is provided to various areas of Edmonton. Stops on each route are reviewed each school year. Our bus service is not a door-to-door service, therefore parents may be required to drive students to their assigned stop. Once the routes have been set for the year, no stop changes will be made during the course of the year. Subsidized E.T.S. student bus passes are available at the office for those students using Edmonton Transit. To view routes, please go to <http://auroraschool.ca/students-parents/busing> .

Student Drop-off and Pick-up

Buses will drop-off and pick-up students in the designated bus drop-off/pick-up area along 131 Street. There are visitor parking stalls in the south parking lot of the school. There is no entry to our south parking lot between 8:15 – 8:30 am, and between 3:10 – 3:25 pm to ensure student safety. Please do not make U Turns on streets adjacent to the school and respect the traffic flow from west to east along 122 Avenue in front of the school . The safety of our children is everyone’s responsibility. Teacher supervision outside begins at 8:20 am in the morning and students should be picked up at 3:10 pm or 3:30 pm if they stay for study period.

The Education Plan

Core Curriculum

	GRADE 1			GRADE 2			GRADE 3 - 4		
	Aurora Lessons	Aurora %	Prov Rec. %	Aurora Lessons	Aurora %	Prov Rec. %	Aurora Lessons	Aurora %	Prov Rec. %
Language Arts	16	40	30	14	35	30	14	35	25
Mathematics	6	15	15	6	15	15	6	15	15
Science	5	12.5	10	5	12.5	10	5	12.5	10
Social Studies	4	10	10	4	10	10	4	10	10
Art	2	5	5	2	5	5	2	5	5
Music	2	5	5	2	5	5	2	5	5
Health	2	5	5	2	5	5	2	5	5
Physical Education	3	7.5	5	3	7.5	5	3	7.5	5
French	-	-	-	2	5	-	2	5	-
	40			40			40		

The “Core” offered at Aurora complies with the core as defined by Alberta Education, but with differences in topic concentration, delivery methods, and a significant expansion of the curriculum beyond that set by Alberta Education.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Kindergarten students will be prepared for Grade 1. The class is teacher-directed and there is whole group instruction. While there is sufficient time set aside for play, the students will be taught pre-reading, pre-writing, and pre-math skills. By the third term most students will be able to read simple text, write simple sentences, and manipulate numbers up to 10.

Resource Fee

The resource fee includes lunchroom supervision, the homework book and other costs listed in Family Zone. The replacement cost of a lost homework book is \$10.00, to be purchased at the Elementary office.

Assessments

Placement Assessment

Students new to Aurora Academic are required to write a placement assessment as a condition of registration. This assessment is used as a tool to assist the administration in determining a student's grade level, ensuring placement in the appropriate grade.

Student Assessment

There will be regular assessment of students based on:

- homework
- in-class evaluation
- projects
- unit tests
- standardized tests
- any other test mandated by Alberta Education

Cheating and/or plagiarism are serious offences that will be reported to administration and incur an academic penalty.

STUDY PERIOD

Study Period is an after-school study program from the end of the last period to 3:30 p.m. five days a week. This is a voluntary program for **Grade 1 to 9** students who may like to work on their studies. If you would like your child to attend study period please return the permission form sent home at the beginning of the school year. Study Period is not a drop-in program. Transportation home is the responsibility of the parents. The school has a right to deny anyone who abuses this privilege from taking part in this program. At the end of the last period students are expected to either go to study or go home.

Report Cards

There are three report cards each year for students. The report cards will be issued with both comments and grades and are reported electronically. Students will receive a username and password prior to their first Report Card in the year they start at Aurora Academic Charter School. This username and password will be needed to access all report cards on-line. Parent/teacher interviews are held twice a year shortly after Report Cards are released. Report Cards will be available on-line after 4:00 p.m. on Report Card release dates.

Homework

Study and completing assignments are an integral part of the academic program at Aurora Academic. Students will list their current assignments in the homework book each day. Both parents and teachers must sign the homework book daily. This format increases communication between staff and parents. We aim to provide 10 to 15 minutes of homework per night in kindergarten and a further 10 to 15 minutes per night for each successive grade to junior high, when the amount should level off at about 90 minutes per night. This does not include home reading, which is suggested each night for all grade levels.

Grade Level	Minimum Homework minutes per night	Maximum Homework minutes per night
Kindergarten	10	15
Grade1	20	30
Grade 2	20	45
Grade 3	40	60
Grade 4	50	75

Policies and Procedures

Emergency Evacuation Plan

An evacuation plan is in place. If an emergency occurs, parents will be notified when and where to pick up their children. Fire and lockdown drills will be practiced in accordance with the regulations to ensure all staff and students become familiar with the procedure.

Lunch

Students will be supervised during lunch period. The Hot lunch program, as scheduled by the school, allows for purchasing/ ordering through a third party website that delivers to the school otherwise, bagged lunches are the norm. Please ensure your child comes to school every day with a bagged lunch. Microwaves are not available for your child to heat up their lunch.

Inclement Weather

All students will go outdoors for all recesses. In cases of inclement weather or when the temperature falls to -21 degrees Celsius range we will hold indoor recess at Principal's discretion. Please dress your child according to the weather, and properly label all of your child's belongings with their name. If the temperature drops below -21 the front doors will be opened for all students and parents at 8:00AM but everyone must stay in the lobby until 8:15AM. We use the weather website Blatchford site.

When the Air Quality Index at Woodcroft Station measures a 7 or higher, students will be kept indoors.

Reporting Student Absence

Any parents whose children will be absent from Aurora Academic must notify the office before the beginning of the day. A message can be left on the school's answering machine before school office hours.

Phone the school office at 780-454-1855, then dial 300 to leave a message in the student absences mailbox.

Leaving School Premises during the School Day

Aurora Academic is a closed campus and students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day, including lunch time and recesses. If the parent has notified the school, any student leaving the premises during class time must sign out before leaving, and sign in if returning the same day. Any student who arrives late, after attendance is taken, must report to the school office and sign in.

Extended Student Absences (Policy Statement) BP 6170 AR 6170

Aurora Academic offers a unique, structured academic program. Academic success is directly impacted by attendance. Therefore, any activity that inhibits a student's ability to attend class inhibits their ability to learn. The first priority of the school is education and, as such, the school cannot support extended absences. If families choose to take an extended absence, parents must accept that there is an academic cost involved with missed curriculum and school time. By the end of the year, parents should reasonably expect that student marks will be affected due to the loss of school time.

If an extended absence of more than four consecutive school days (outside of the scope of The Alberta Education current legislation and regulations) occurs:

- a. Parents will be sent a letter from the Principal that outlines the school's concerns and the possible academic risks involved.
- b. Teachers are not required to provide curriculum work for the student to be done while on the extended absence.
- c. Where applicable, the student will not be eligible for a top three academic award, citizenship award, most improved award, or diligence award for that term. The student will be eligible for the honour roll.

For more information regarding our Extended Absence Policy (Policy No. 6170), please visit our website at www.auroraschool.ca or contact the school.

To maximize your child's education, please follow the attendance policies.

Student Expectations

Suspensions and Expulsions

Students have a responsibility to try their best and to not disrupt the learning of those around them. Aurora School follows a restorative justice discipline model where students are given the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and to make amends. Students, parents, and teachers are partners in education and parents will be informed of serious or on-going issues so that they can be involved in helping their child to learn.

In serious cases, or where students are not learning from their behaviour, suspensions and/or expulsions may be necessary for the safety of all students. Please see Aurora School Policy BP 6040 and AR 6040 for more information.

Student Code of Conduct: Aurora Academic Charter School Policy BP 6035

A. A student shall comply with the following code of conduct:

1. Respect yourself and the rights of others in the school.
2. Make sure your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in the school that respects the diversity and fosters a sense of belonging of others in your school.
3. Refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behavior, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours or electronically/online.
4. Inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or any safety concerns in the school.
5. Act in ways that honour and represent you and your school.
6. Attend regularly and punctually.
7. Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education.
8. Know and comply with the rules of your school.
9. Cooperate with all school staff.
10. Be accountable for your behavior to your teachers and other school staff.
11. Contribute positively to your school and your school community.

B. Unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

1. Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others, the school environment, and that create unsafe conditions.
2. Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation in any context including electronic whether or not inside the school building or during the school day.
3. Physical violence.
4. Retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concerns.
5. Illegal activity such as: a. possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, b. possession or use of weapons, c. theft or damage to property.
6. Discrimination as outlined in *the Alberta Human Rights Act and Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, or sexual orientation will not be permitted.

School Expectations

Citizenship Good citizenship is valued at Aurora Academic. Students who set good examples are appreciated and recognized.

Punctuality Being prompt shows courtesy for others. Back doors are locked at 8:30 a.m. and entry is through the front doors after that time.

Good Manners “Excuse me”, “Please” and “Thank you” are simple, yet important phrases. Students are expected to be obedient and respectful to the staff at all times.

Litter Students are responsible for cleanliness of the facilities and grounds. Paper and rubbish must be placed in receptacles.

Gum Chewing/Snowballing Neither gum chewing nor throwing snowballs is allowed.

Caps and Hats Caps and hats will be removed in the building.

Bad Language Bad language by students or adults will not be tolerated at Aurora Academic.

Damage to School Property Students and parents will be responsible for paying for damage to school property as a result of horseplay or vandalism.

Bus Conduct Students riding the bus to the school should remember that they are responsible for their conduct on the bus. The driver is in charge of the bus and their directions must be obeyed. Failure to adhere to bus rules may result in a student being denied bus privileges for a period of time. For safety reasons, no littering, eating or drinking (except water) is allowed while riding on the bus. (See Aurora Academic Policy No. 9000.)

Bullying / Harassment Bullying, whether verbal or physical, is an offense at Aurora Academic and the transgressor will be dealt with immediately. If you are being bullied, tell that person the behavior is unwelcome and you want them to stop. If that fails to work, bring the matter directly to your homeroom teacher or the teacher on playground duty. (See Aurora Academic Policy No. 6040.) Online bullying is a serious offence, regardless of whether it happens at school or at home. Aurora prohibits harassment of any individual because of race, religion, colour, gender, or sexual orientation. Any individuals who believe that they have been subject to harassment of any nature should report it immediately.

Electronic Devices All electronic devices, such as cell phones, Smart watches, tablets and iPads may only be used after school, outside the building. Devices must remain in student backpacks during the school day. Students must not use their cell phones to record others (bus, class, field trips, etc.) Students are not allowed to use devices during school-related activities or on the bus.

Personal Property Please be aware that if your child brings personal property to school or on the bus it is his/her responsibility.

School Uniform

Top Marks is the uniform supplier for Aurora Academic. Policy requires that students be properly outfitted in school uniform each day. **All tops and bottoms must be purchased through Top Marks.**

Dress Days are on Mondays. School uniform is to be worn on school trips and during all activities outside school when representing Aurora. Any exceptions will be noted by the teacher or teachers sponsoring outside events.

Head coverings, accessories, and tights should be Aurora colours: navy, white, grey, tartan or black. Please speak to the Principal if there is a need for a different colour. Shoes should be comfortable with non-marking soles; wheely shoes or other footwear that is disruptive or unsafe is not allowed. Elementary students should not wear makeup or high heels.

Elementary students are not allowed to wear the Middle School hoodie or phys. ed. items as uniform items inside the school.

To order on-line, visit their website at www.topmarks.ca. Aurora’s school code is AUR01. They do not accept any orders over the telephone. For any questions, please contact their customer service department at 1-800-667-7105, extension 239 (Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. MST).

Please see our school website for the most current information on uniforms www.auroraschool.ca