
For Immediate Release

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EICS Opens COGITO Academy Alternative Program

Sherwood Park, AB - Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) is opening a new program that offers alternative accelerated teaching to students for the 2023 - 2024 school year. COGITO Academy will first be offered at Madonna Catholic School (MCS), which is a Kindergarten to Grade 4 elementary school in Sherwood Park.

The Academy features a focused and structured learning environment that empowers students to have an in-depth understanding of core subjects. Emphasis is placed on academic excellence as well as an advanced understanding of math and literacy at their grade level. To facilitate learning, parents are viewed as active partners in their child's education; they play a role in assisting their child when needed and are encouraged to communicate with the Academy's teacher.

"COGITO Academy is teacher-driven, and encourages students to dig deeper in their studies as they develop their critical thinking skills," said MCS Principal Karen Antoniuk. "I'm delighted to offer COGITO Academy to families who are looking for a more traditional learning environment. The parents that I have spoken to about this program so far are excited. They want their children to learn in this type of a classroom setting."

Students attending COGITO Academy will learn in a teacher-directed environment that provides a familiar routine, homework, and regular testing that enables students to progress through their studies together. All COGITO Academy curriculum is based on Alberta Education's academic requirements.

"We're constantly seeking feedback from our EICS families about what we can do to elevate the learning experience at our schools," said EICS Superintendent Paul Corrigan. "Introducing COGITO Academy is one of the many ways EICS is striving to meet the needs of our students."

Registration for COGITO Academy's 2023 - 2024 school year is currently available through the website eics.ab.ca.

Origin of the Word "Cogito"

"Cogito" is derived from the Latin phrase *cogito, ergo sum* ("I think, therefore I am.") and is attributed to French philosopher René Descartes.

EICS, part of Alberta's publicly funded education system, is committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values. EICS is dedicated to providing quality, faith-based learning environments to students of any background and faith, where their skills are nurtured and celebrated by dedicated, caring staff.

For more information or to request an interview with Madonna Catholic School Principal Karen Antoniuk, please contact:

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