



Arts Calibre Academy
arts inspired education

Kindergarten to Grade 5 Program and Curriculum

Revised: January 29, 2012

By: Sandra Walton
Executive Director

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"When we teach a child to sing or play the flute, we teach her how to listen. When we teach her to draw, we teach her to see. When we teach a child to dance, we teach him about his body and about space, and when he acts on a stage, he learns about character and motivation. When we teach a child design, we reveal the geometry of the world. When we teach children about the folk and traditional arts and the great masterpieces of the world, we teach them to celebrate their roots and find their own place in history."

- Jane Alexander, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts (1993-1997)

Who We Are

ArtsCalibre Academy is a comprehensive educational program that uses the Arts to motivate and teach. It inspires children to learn through music, dance, drama and visual arts, instilling a lifelong appreciation of learning and the Arts.

Developed by Sandra Walton (M.Ed, B.Ed, ECE), the ArtsCalibre Curriculum is a thematic, experiential approach to learning. Within an endless variety of fascinating themes, students are immersed in related lessons and activities. This dynamic, engaging environment encourages them to use their imagination and tap into their inborn creativity, constantly exploring new concepts. The Arts are the vehicle for this exploration.

Our Purpose

ArtsCalibre is dedicated to achieving complete academic excellence through artistic experience. Integrating the Arts into our program not only enhances learning in all core subjects, but also enriches children's lives overall.

Our Background and Philosophy

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

- Albert Einstein

Our Director Sandra Walton has been a professional educator for over 20 years, teaching at virtually all grade levels in a wide variety of settings.

Throughout her career she has taught with a single, fundamental goal in mind: to truly connect with her students, and let their own inspiration and motivation drive their learning. As a young student herself she was constantly asking the question "Why?" – and refusing to lose the sense of wonder that defined her early childhood. She needed a deeper understanding of what she was being taught in order to

commit it to memory. Through her early exposure to music, dance and other art forms, Sandra witnessed at every turn their power to reach this deeper meaning and reinforce learning. She brings these values and experiences to her teaching to this day, and they are the foundation of ArtsCalibre's philosophy.

Although Sandra had long dreamed of creating a school based on this vision, the births of her two young children were her divine inspiration to make the dream a reality.

Our Curriculum

"The most significant learning occurs when emotions are integrated with instruction because all body systems are united. The Arts are strongly linked to emotions, enhancing the likelihood that students will remember something."

- Eric Jensen, author of *Teaching with the Brain in Mind*

ArtsCalibre Academy is committed to meeting *and exceeding* the school curriculum of the BC Ministry of Education. (See our **Resources** section following for online links to the Kindergarten and Grade 1 Curriculum documents.)

Several features of our program are key to achieving this goal:

- **Engagement** – Children *must* be engaged for learning to occur. Full engagement is therefore one of the prerequisite aims of our program, and an essential purpose of our Fine Arts focus.
- **Environment** – Maintaining a safe, respectful, stress- and confrontation-free environment is crucial to children's success. Learning is also greatly enhanced by our small class sizes and low student-teacher ratios.
- **Expression** – Children who feel free to fully express themselves develop the confidence and emotional maturity to tackle any academic and social challenges they may face in the future.
- **Growth and Community** – ArtsCalibre is growing with our children. Having built a highly reputable preschool, we are now planning to grow by at least one grade per year, to Grade 5 and beyond. Strong connections between the children, their families and our school are the natural result of this process and the warm, inviting climate that we strive to create.

We apply three basic approaches in every subject that we teach:

- **Thematic** – Using themes (such as Light and Colour, or Space Exploration) to facilitate teaching across all subject areas. The more integrated a lesson is, the deeper the learning that can result. As an example, see the *Sample Kindergarten Lesson Plan* in the **Resources** section following.
- **Experiential** – Employing a hands-on approach to learning that is enhanced by the thematic approach, and essential for engagement.
- **Emergent** – Accommodating children's spontaneous questions as they experience each activity. Immediate rewards for curiosity invite deeper exploration.

Our Arts focus enables us to deliver outstanding instruction across all subjects:

- **Language Arts** – Developing strong reading, comprehension, writing and speaking skills through books, poems, music, dance and imaginative play.
- **Mathematics** – Fostering numeracy skills through reading, music and rhythm, cooking, etc.
- **Social Studies** – Teaching history, geography and various cultures through literature, music, dance, theatre and visual arts.
- **Science** – Reinforcing science and supplementing traditional instruction methods through creative means such as role playing, manufacturing instruments, etc.
- **Health and Wellness** – Promoting a healthy lifestyle through dance, body awareness and culinary arts.
- **Physical Education** – Promoting fitness through traditional sports as well as culturally diverse disciplines such as dance, Yoga, Pilates, Capoeira, Taekwondo, etc.
- **French** – Developing vocabulary and an understanding of culture through reading, speech, song and the study of visual and other art forms.

Note: Tuition includes on-premises activities such as weekly swimming lessons and one-on-one piano instruction by Ms. Jo Ann Dalisay (B.Mus, M.Mus, Member BCRMTA) of **Celesta Piano Studio** (website www.celestapianostudio.com/teachers_bio).

Starting September 2012, ArtsCalibre educators will be fully trained in both the **Mind Up Curriculum** (www.thehawnfoundation.org/curriculum) and **Singing English** (www.singingenglish.com).

"It's not what is poured into a student, but what is planted."

- Linda Conway

For More Information

Feel free to attend our next **Open House**:

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 – 4:00 to 7:00 PM
Gordon Head Recreation Centre
4100 Lambrick Way, Victoria

Visit our website at www.ArtsCalibre.ca
or contact us at:

Email: info@ArtsCalibre.ca
Phone: (250) 382-3533



Resources

1. BC Ministry of Education Curriculum Packages:
 - Kindergarten: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/curric_grade_packages/grkcurric_req.pdf
 - Grade 1: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/curric_grade_packages/gr1curric_req.pdf
 - Grade 2: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/curric_grade_packages/gr2curric_req.pdf
 - Grade 3: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/curric_grade_packages/gr3curric_req.pdf
 - Grade 4: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/curric_grade_packages/gr4curric_req.pdf
 - Grade 5: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/curric_grade_packages/gr5curric_req.pdf
2. Sample Kindergarten Lesson Plan:
 - www.ArtsCalibre.ca/pdfs/sample_kindergarten_lesson_plan_-_v4.pdf



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