



## Connect Charter School offers an enhanced, publicly-funded program that provides authentic, real-life learning opportunities to develop students as extraordinary citizens.

Our collaborative teaching and learning practices benefit our students, teachers and other educators to improve Alberta's education system.

### Fast Facts

- Public Charter School
- Inclusive
- 624 students – over 1000 on the first come first serve wait list
- Grades 4 to 9
- Located in Southwest Calgary

### Vision

“Preparing students as extraordinary citizens” – A lofty vision that captures the significance we place on the key pillars of our program:

- Outdoor & environmental education
- Collaboration
- Inquiry-based learning
- Research
- Technology integration
- Real-life learning experiences

### Research & Innovation Mandate

As a public charter school, Connect has the additional responsibility to engage in research and innovation to improve education. We share our work on our Connect! Blog, by hosting hundreds of visitors each year, by presenting at major conferences, and more.

### 2017/18 PRIORITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There were many highlights in the 2017-2018 school year...

- Continued strong academic success of our students:
- Worked collaboratively with Alberta Education, universities and other partners in education to serve as a crucible for change
- Developed a sustainable partnership with Tsuut'ina Education through the Partners In Place (PIP) initiative, designed as a bridge to reconciliation. The PIP initiative will be continuing in the 2018-19 school year and beyond.
- Meaningfully collaborated with many partners including teachers, administrators, pre-service teachers, university professors, kinesiology students, educational assistant practicum students, Bridges to Education students, and Alberta Education personnel
- Hosted the Northwest Regional Conference of the Association for Experiential Education (May 17-20th, 2018).
- Enhanced student competency and teachers' and administrators' professional capacity using the descriptors of exemplary learning, teaching and leadership as frameworks for action.



### Parental and Community Engagement

The School Council at Connect is a highly involved and invested group. Working with the school staff, they undertook a number of initiatives in 2017–18 that encouraged parental and community engagement:

- Connect School Council hosted the four Parent Summits over the course of the year with over 260 participants in attendance.
- Organization of parent information sessions throughout the year on topics such as raising a resilient youth, dealing with stress and anxiety, high school transition, and more
- Open forum, “Forum with Phil” sessions at each school council meeting
- Thousands of hours of parent volunteer time on field trips (including many overnight trips), supporting special events, fundraising, supporting learning in the classes and much more

### 2017/18 STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PRIORITIES

There were many highlights in the 2017/18 school year:

- 72% of Connect students report they are highly skilled and yet challenged by their work, compared to 57% nationally.
- Connect outscored the provincial average on Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in all subjects at both grade 6 and 9.
- 94.7% of students in Grades 6 and 9 achieved the acceptable standard on Provincial Achievement Tests (overall cohort results).
- 42.7% of students in Grades 6 and 9 achieved the standard of excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests (overall cohort results).
- Accountability Pillar Survey results and OurSCHOOL survey results indicate a very safe and supportive environment:
- 100% of teachers agree that their students are engaged in meaningful, authentic learning activities, as reported on the annual teacher survey.
- 82.4% of students agree that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.
- We are an inclusive charter school and do not discriminate in our entrance process – we are stronger for our diversity.
- Student achievement remains very high, coupled with high levels of student engagement and challenge. A disposition of inquiry is a highly effective means by which we can address both the fundamentals of learning as well as deeper learning and knowledge creation. 100% of teachers strongly agree or agree that “I am an innovator and I take measured risks to push my practice forward and promote an entrepreneurial spirit in my students”.
- Students, staff, and parents understand the significance of outdoor and environmental education.

**The summary, financial information and full Annual Education Report for Connect Charter School is available at:**  
[http://connectcharter.ca/publications/plans\\_and\\_reports.asp](http://connectcharter.ca/publications/plans_and_reports.asp)

Paper copies are available at the main office in at the school.