



École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School

With Christ as our ever-present teacher, in an environment rich in French Language and culture, we ensure every child succeeds: personally, spiritually, academically.

8 Sandpiper Drive
Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 0B6
PH: 780-467-7135
epk.eics.ab.ca

Kindergarten Orientation Package

YOU'VE MADE A GREAT CHOICE!

Welcome to the École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School French Immersion Program for 2025-2026. We are so glad that you chose to join the ÉPK family and to be part of the Catholic French Immersion Advantage! We are looking forward to working with you this year, and celebrating the many successes your child will experience throughout their learning career!

This orientation package contains important information to help you and your child join the ÉPK family with ease. It also provides you with information relevant for the entire year.

Further newsletters will be published regularly to keep you informed of school activities and news. These are often sent via email. Another fantastic resource for class and school events is the school website epk.eics.ab.ca. We recommend that you visit it often as we update it regularly.

We look forward to working with you throughout the year!

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School Kindergarten and School Leadership Team

STARTING KINDERGARTEN WITH EASE

Small Group Orientation: Reserve Yours Today!

We are so excited to welcome your child to their first year at Ecole Pere Kenneth Kearns. It is a privilege to be part of their learning journey and we can't wait to get started.

Recognizing that coming to school for the first time may be a little stressful on young children (and parents too), we are planning a slight deviation from a typical day. On your child's first day of school, **August 28th, 2025**, he/she will attend for half a day only. Smaller groups have been organized, allowing for a less busy and a more gentle beginning. For your assigned day your child will either attend from 9:00 - 11:00 am or 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Your child should bring a small snack and a bottle of water. Please verify the date and start time at the bottom of this letter. On your child's next scheduled day, **September 2nd (Full Time Kindergarten) and September 3rd (Part Time Kindergarten)**, classes will resume to regular hours, drop off can begin @ 8:30 and dismissal is at 3:10. They will also be able to access the bus if that is what your family has planned. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please see attached letter for your child's Staggered Entry Appointment.

If you have any questions, please contact us. ÉPK school office will remain open until Thursday, June 26th, 2025. After this day, if you prefer to call, please leave a voicemail as the office will re-open August 13th, 2025. We will respond to all emails and voicemail messages received throughout the summer during the week of August 18th – August 27th, 2025.

GETTING STARTED

First Day of School – After your staggered entry

M-F Full Day Program: **Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025**

Monday/Thursday/ and additional **Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025**

Class Times

Full Day (M-F) Kindergarten Class:

- 8:40AM to 3:10PM for the full day students
- Monday through Friday throughout the year
- **Wednesdays are always Early Dismissal at 2:11pm**

Half Time Alternating Full Day Programs:

- 8:40AM to 3:10PM on Monday and Thursdays and additional Wednesdays
- **Wednesdays are always Early Dismissal at 2:11pm**

Last day for Full Day Kindergarten class is Friday, June 19, 2026

Last day of School for M/TH Kindergarten class is Thursday, June 18, 2026

Please visit the school website at epk.eics.ab.ca for a complete calendar.

Attached to the orientation package email is the EICS District Calendar. It can also be accessed at <https://www.eics.ab.ca/download/489279> or at <https://epk.eics.ab.ca/calendar>.

WHERE TO PARK

- Visitor parking is available in any stall in front of the school
- Back parking lot
- On Flamingo Drive.

Our Drop Off Lane has supervision beginning at 8:30 am. If your child is dropped off after 8:40 am please have them enter through the front door. After school, the PICK-UP Lane will be open after the buses have left. This lane is **not intended** for parents to park and exit their vehicle. If you wish to walk your child to their classroom in the morning or greet them at the front of school at the end of the day please park on the street or in the assigned parking stalls.



WHAT TO BRING

We ask that your child brings the following personal items:

- A pair of runners with white soles, preferably with Velcro closure (to be kept at school)
- Backpack & Lunch Kit
- Water Bottle
- A set of spare clothing for your child (pants, shirt, socks and underwear in a labeled Ziploc bag – Which will be left at school)



Please label these items with your child's name so they can easily be identified and returned if misplaced.

Your child's school supply list should accompany this orientation package; however it is also available at <https://epk.eics.ab.ca/parents/school-supply-lists>.



Please bring all supplies to your Staggered Entry Session.



Helping your child become independent is a fantastic gift!

Please prepare your children to dress themselves by having them practice fastening their coat and shoes.

SCHOOL FEES (FIELD TRIPS AND ENHANCED PROGRAMMING)

School fees are currently online and available for your viewing. For your convenience, these fees will be available for payment by debit or credit card online under your PowerSchool Parent Portal Account.

For more information <https://epk.eics.ab.ca/parents/school-finances>

What is a Parent Portal Account?

This is an account that you created upon registration for yourself in our school's software system called PowerSchool. Your account will give you access to your child's field trip costs, report cards, student forms and more. **This program will be used every year at ÉPK.**

If you have any questions regarding your account, please call the school.

PowerSchool

Student and Parent Sign In

Sign In Create Account

Username your username

Password *****

[Forgot Username or Password?](#)

Sign In

LUNCH & SNACKS

Every day, students will have lunch & two snacks.

Thank you for helping us keep École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School a **nut sensitive** school. Please remember to read ingredient labels carefully when packing your child's snack to help ensure food is nut free.



WHEN YOUR CHILD IS AWAY FROM SCHOOL

If your child is not attending school, please contact the school and share:

- the name of your child
- his/her homeroom classroom
- the reason for the absence
- the duration of the absence

Absences can be reported in several ways:

- Report the absence via your PowerSchool Parent Portal Account
- Email us at epk@eics.ab.ca
- Voicemail 780-467-7135

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact us at the school at 780-467-7135

To ensure student safety, we check student attendance in the morning and afternoon.

TAKING THE BUS

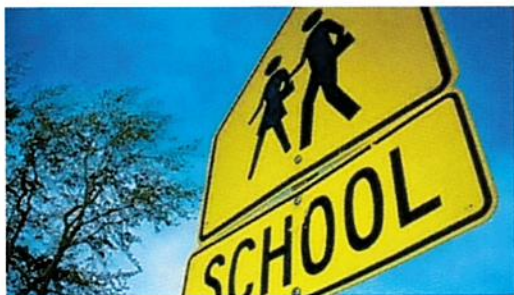
If you coordinated bussing through EICS, it will officially begin Thursday, August 28th, 2025. Your child's bus driver will notify you by phone just prior to school starting as to the time and



location of your child's pick-up. Please make sure you ask the bus driver for the number of the bus your child will be taking to **return** home after school.

Your child will receive bus passes within the first few days of school. We strongly encourage you to attach these passes to the outside of your child's backpack so that it is easily visible. This will assist your child as well as the staff in ensuring your child boards the correct bus.

If you have applied for bussing on your registration, to date, no further information is available regarding routes. If you have not yet requested bussing, and would like to, please go to www.eics.ab.ca and click **Transportation** to complete an application.



Transferring buses may be necessary for some students, even in kindergarten. Don't worry, the students are well taken care of and they learn quickly. You can help by ensuring bus passes as well as bus numbers are visible on the exterior of your child's backpack. There are always supervisors at transfer points to help ensure children get to their correct bus. Please encourage your child to go to a supervisor (usually wearing a reflective vest) if they

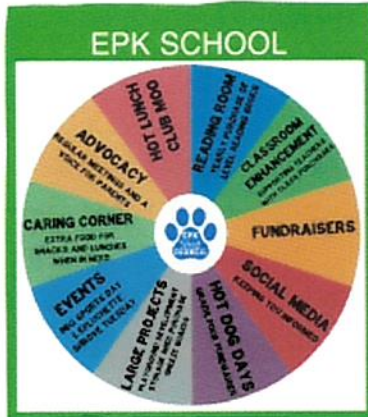
are confused.

GETTING INVOLVED

Ways to become involved:

- Volunteer for Special Events and Activities
 - Just to name a few, parents are welcome to volunteer for L'épluchette (A French Canadian Harvest celebration), Carnaval, ÉPK Family Fun Night, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Sports Day, Faith Day along with many classroom specific field trips and activities. A great time to sign up is during our Meet the Staff event.
- Be a classroom representative
 - Participate in School Council and work closely with the Principal to learn all the ins and outs of what is going on in the school
 - Be a voice for your child's class and provide information and feedback about decisions affecting ÉPK
- Support ÉPK from home
 - There are many ways to support your child's class and school by helping with projects or special events from home.

- Attend ÉPK School Council Meetings
 - o This is a great opportunity to meet other ÉPK parents, learn about the amazing events happening at ÉPK, get involved in whole school activities and be a voice for School Council and ÉPK School leadership regarding ÉPK's bright future. Visit <https://epk.eics.ab.ca/parents/school-council> for more information and once a month meeting dates.



What is ÉPK School Council?

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School also has a fantastic School Council. Each month they meet to help guide the direction of the school, assist in decision making that affect all ÉPK students and keep up to date on the amazing opportunities for students. They also plan and coordinate special events, as well as establish fundraising opportunities to support Faith experiences at school, and many Cultural events. It is also an excellent way to get to know other parents in the school, and

develop lasting relationships. As a parent of a child(ren) attending ÉPK, you are encouraged to attend meetings as well as participate in the planning and volunteering for events. Ensuring we have Kindergarten parent voices is vital. All meeting dates are posted on the school website at epk.eics.ab.ca under Parents.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL START

For some children, starting kindergarten might sound super exciting, but for others, it is quite intimidating. After all, a child has to experience and adjust to a completely new environment which can be pretty scary (even for parents). If your child is having mixed feelings about starting kindergarten, don't worry about it. It is absolutely normal to feel overwhelmed with different emotions. Here are a few back to school tips for parents of kindergarteners!

Get a school routine going early

Summertime schedules are often different from school year schedules, and there's nothing wrong with that. However, kids do well with routines so establishing a school routine early is important.

Get appropriate gear for your kindergartener

There are tons of cute and fun school supplies out there! A tiny backpack is not very useful. The backpack should be able to hold a water bottle, a lunch bag, occasional treasures and books.

Talk and read about school

Listen to your kindergartener and answer any questions they might have. Share insights into when you were in school and all the fun you had there. Books about school are a great way to generate conversation.

Encourage independence

While no one expects a 5 year old to do everything on their own, age appropriate independence is important. Some important tasks would include dressing and toileting themselves and cleaning up after themselves. While perfection isn't necessary, working towards independence is the goal.

Prepare for back-to-school emotions

Sometimes young children deal with separation anxiety when school time rolls around. Honestly, some parents have trouble separating from their children too. In both cases, those feelings are totally normal! Many of the above tips will help ease school anxieties. Children adjust to new experiences and in no time they will wave good-bye to you and join their friends to have a morning of fun.

Starter Package

Qty. Description

- 1 Sheet of Personalized Student Labels (0.5" x 1.75")
- 1 School Start Report Cover (3 Prong) - Yellow
- 1 School Start Report Cover (3 Prong) - Red
- 1 School Start Exercise Book - Plain (7 1/8" x 9 1/8") - 72 pages
- 1 Expo Low Odor Dry Erase Fine Tip Markers - 4 pack
- 1 Crayola Wax Crayons - 24 pack

Qty. Description

- 1 School Start Sheet Protectors (10 Sheets)
- 1 School Start Report Cover (3 Prong) - Light Blue
- 1 Hilroy Manila Studio Coil Scrap Book (14" x 11") - 20 sheets
- 1 Crayola Original Broad line Washable Markers (Conical Tip) - 10 pack
- 1 Staedtler Coloured Pencils (pre-sharpened) - 24 pack
- 2 School Start White Premium Eraser

Cost of Starter Package

\$ 34.60

Items required by teacher and to be ordered if you do not already have them

Description	Qty. Req'd	Price	Qty. Ordered	Subtotal
Sharpie Fine Point Permanent Marker (black)	1	1.42		
School Start 5" Blunt Scissors	1	3.08		
School Start Clear Glue Stick - 21 g.	6	1.55		
School Start Washable White School Glue - 125 ml.	1	1.92		
School Start Plastic Pencil Box (8" x 4.7" x 2.3")	1	2.77		
Pampers Sensitive Wipes - 56 Wipes	1	9.51		
Royale Facial Tissue (2 Ply) - 126 Sheets	1	2.33		
Paper Towel Roll	1	3.16		
Large Zipper Bags (10" x 12")	10	0.30		
Sandwich Zipper Bags (6" x 6")	10	0.19		
Crayola Washable Watercolour Paint Set (8 Colours)	1	4.04		
Play-Doh - Single Asst. Colours (3oz / 84g.)	2	2.42		
Foam Pump Soap - Purchased Elsewhere	1			

Cost of Required Items

(prices include tax)

\$

Shipping

\$ 7.50

Total Cost (Starter Package + Required Items + Shipping)

(prices include tax)

\$

Contact Info / Payment

Student Name (label to appear on supply box)

Phone Number

Email (summer contact info)

By Credit Card Payment: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Cheque (made payable to: School Start)

Card Number

CVV

Expiry Date

\$

Name as it appears on card

Signature

Amount

Your Order Will Be Delivered To Your Home. Please provide your house and street address. No P.O. Boxes.

Address

City

Province

Postcode

2025-2026

Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville
FINAL Approved Calendar - February 2025

August 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

September 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

October 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

November 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

December 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

January 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

February 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

March 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

April 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

June 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Legend	
First Instruction Day --Semester 1 & 2	
PD Days/Operational – School closed to students	
Early Dismissal/Staff Meeting	
Holiday/Vacation/School Closure	
Day in Lieu Interviews Operation Day -no students/staff	
Last Student Day	

SCHOOL CLOSURES			OPERATIONAL DAYS	STUDENT DAYS
Labour Day	September 1		August	3
Truth and Reconciliation Day	September 30	September	0	20
Thanksgiving Day	October 13	October	1	21
Day in Lieu for Interviews	November 10	November	1	15
Remembrance Day	November 11	December	0	15
Fall Break	November 10 - 14	January	1	19
Christmas Vacation	December 22 - January 2	February	2	17
Semester 2 Starts	January 29	March	2	16
Teachers' Convention	February 5 - 6	April	0	20
Family Day	February 16	May	1	19
Day in Lieu for Interviews	March 23	June	1	17
Spring Break	March 23 - 27			
Good Friday	April 3		12	181
Easter Monday	April 6			
Victoria Day	May 18	Semester 1	6	90
		Semester 2	6	91
OPENING AND CLOSING DATES		MISSION STATEMENT "We are a Catholic community committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values, where students' gifts and talents are celebrated and nurtured through lifelong spiritual and personal experiences"		
First day for Teachers	August 25			
First day for Students	August 28			
Last day for Students	June 23			
Last day for Teachers	June 24			

PD/Operational Days (Schools closed to students)	
August 25	In School PD Day
August 26	In School PD Day
August 27	Division/School Opening Staff Day
October 3	Division PD Day
January 28	Division PD Day
February 5	Teachers' Convention
February 6	Teachers' Convention
March 6	Division Faith and Wellness Day
May 1	Division PD Day
June 24	In School Staff Day

November 30th Holodomor Memorial Day - Ukrainian Famine Genocide
To be acknowledged in prayer.

Minimum Instructional Hours Per Year		
Early Childhood Services	475	
Elementary/Junior High	950	
Senior High School	1000	
	Instructional Days	Operational Days
Semester One	90	6
Semester Two	91	6
Total	181	12



École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School

With Christ as our ever-present teacher, in an environment rich in French Language and culture, we ensure every child succeeds: personally, spiritually, and academically.

Directeur/Principal – M Alyre Morin

Directeur Adjoint/Assistant Principal – M Daniel Holden

8 Sandpiper Drive

Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 0B6

PH: 780-467-7135 Website: epk.eics.ab.ca

Dear FD Kindergarten Parents,

We are so excited to welcome your child to their first year at École Père Kenneth Kearns. It is a privilege to be part of their learning journey and we can't wait to get started.

Recognizing that coming to school for the first time may be a little stressful on young children (and parents too) , we are planning a slight deviation from a typical day. On your child's first day of school, **August 28th 2025**, he/she will attend for **half a day only**.

Smaller groups have been organized, allowing for a less busy and a more gentle beginning. For your assigned day your child will either attend from 9:00 - 11:00 am or 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Your child should bring a small snack and a bottle of water. Please verify the date and start time at the bottom of this letter. On your child's next scheduled day (September 2nd), classes will resume to regular hours, drop off can begin at 8:30 and dismissal is at 3:10. They will also be able to access the bus if that is what your family has planned. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours in Christ,

Mme Janelle Tremblay-Butz & Mme Alisa Akkerman

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Date of Staggered Entry</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>A-J</u>	August 28th 2025	9:00AM to 11:00AM
<u>K-Z</u>	August 28th 2025	12:30PM to 2:30PM

REGISTRATION PROCESS

What to expect?

ÉPK KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION PROCESS

1

COMPLETE ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Registration open Feb 1st 2025
- Be sure to attach a PDF copy of your child's birth certificate online

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

- Process & Approve Registration
- School will send a Welcome email

2

3

DEPOSITS & PROGRAM CONFIRMATION

- For those registered in the Full Day Kindergarten Monday to Friday program, deposit will be required to guarantee your spot (end of March 2025)
- Program confirmation will be announced once minimum enrollment has been met.

TEST DRIVE INVITATION & APPOINTMENT

- Email invitation will be sent out to parents inviting them to attend the Kindergarten Test Drive (End of May 2025)
- Students attend "Test Drive" Kindergarten on either June 2025. Book your desired appointment.

4

5

ORIENTATION PACKAGE

- Kindergarten Orientation Package will be emailed out - Copy will be available online by end of June 2025

ATTEND STAGGERED ENTRY DATE

- Students will attend their appointed staggered entry date August 2025 - TBD

6

7

FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN

- Full Day Monday- Friday: September 2025 - TBD
- Full Day Tuesday, Thursday & Alt Friday: September 2025 - TBD

If you would like to make any changes to your registration please contact the school at epk@eics.ab.ca