

MARANATHA SCHOOLHOUSE

**391 Merritt Street
St.Catharines, Ontario**

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Welcome to Maranatha Schoolhouse. We are a private school based on the learning pod teaching platform that caters to a wide and diverse range of learners. Our approach to learning and teaching is to actively encourage and inspire independent thinking. Having an independent voice, learning through relevant and real-world circumstances is at the heart of our school. We are an inclusive environment where the desire to learn is strong. Our enriched curriculum is full of activities which make learning more expressive, significant, rewarding and fun, improving the educational experience for all our learners.

OUR VISION

Our vision for each student is simple. It is based on 1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one look down on your youth, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to provide a warm, safe, secure and happy learning environment where students are supported, encouraged and challenged to be all that they can be.

Each individual is given the opportunity and support from all stakeholders within the community to reach their full potential whether it be physically, emotionally, spiritually or academically, so that they are equipped with the skills to be healthy, ambitious, ethical and enterprising.

STAFFING AND CLASS SET UP

Much like the pioneer schoolhouse setup, Maranatha Schoolhouse operates on the premises of all grade levels working alongside one another, in one classroom, supporting one another and providing a learning environment that is conducive to individualism and teamwork. While the primary educator is responsible for the overall curriculum and delivery of teaching lessons, a number of supplementary teachers/facilitators take part in the delivery of extra-curricular interests. Such activities are determined by class interest, from one semester to another, but may include drama, music and arts, with no limit to other possibilities.

Class does not exceed 8 students, and is determined by range of age, ability and complexity of any additional learning needs. Levels of support are allocated given the needs of the class and individuals.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The school day starts at 9 am and finishes at 3 pm. Two 15-minute break times are provided each day at 10:15 am and 1:15 pm, with lunchtime at 11:30 am - 12:15 pm. A typical day's schedule consists of the following:

9:00	Morning Assembly: Announcements, Devotional, National Anthem, Prayer
9:15	Subject #1
10:15	Break Time / Gross Motor Exercise
10:30	Subject #2
11:30	Lunch Time / Recreation
12:15	Subject #3
1:15	Break Time / Gross Motor Exercise
1:30	Subject #4
2:30	Closing Assembly

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We are committed to students achieving their full potential, and therefore recognize that a student's regular attendance is linked to their achievement potential. We work closely with the parents to ensure good attendance is maintained, although the school acknowledges that some students may have extended periods of absence due to medical needs. However, if a child is not well enough to attend school, parents are asked to telephone or text the educator no later than 8:30am, giving reason for their absence. Full school fees are still due when the child is absent due to illness or any other reason on regular scheduled school days.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES

The school is closed on statutory holidays as per charted below, and fees are still due when such closures fall on what is considered a regular school day. The school is also closed on the 3rd week in March and the last two weeks in December. Parents are not required to pay fees for these three closed weeks.

When family holidays do not coincide with the school closure weeks of March and December, it is necessary to complete a 'holiday request' form asking for permission to take your child out of school during term time. Students will be given school work to complete during such absences so they do not fall behind in their studies. Fees are still due during this "holiday request" time.

The school year begins on the first Tuesday of September and ends on the third Friday in June. A Summer Program is offered in July and August, at an added cost, consisting of special fun interest activities. Separate registration is required for the Summer Program, with priority given to regular registered school students.

Maranatha Schoolhouse will be closed on the holidays listed below. Payment for school fees is still due on these holidays, if they fall on regular school scheduled days. Holidays that fall on a weekend, we will be closed on the Friday or Monday in lieu of the holiday, with proper notice given to the families well in advance. There are also 3 Personal Development (PD) days throughout the school calendar, whereby school fees are still due if these days fall on regular school scheduled days. These PD days are intended as allotted time for the staff to study, plan student programs, attend educator workshops, etc.

New Year's Day January 1	Family Day 3rd Monday in February
Good Friday Friday before Easter Sunday Sunday	Easter Monday Monday after Easter
Victoria Day Monday before May 25	Thanksgiving – as per official date each year
March Break – 3 rd week December	Christmas Break – last two weeks in

LUNCH AND BREAK TIME SNACKS

All lunch and break time snacks are provided by the parents, and encouraged to include well-balanced nutritional options. Parents are required to notify the school of any new developments in food sensitivities or allergies since completing the registration forms. Where a student may require medication when encountering food allergies, the medication must be clearly marked with child's name, doctor's name, expiry date and instructions on administering. Once monthly, the school plans for a special lunch, such as "Pizza Day". Students will be invited to participate by having parents complete the request form in advance and submit payment.

SCHOOL ATTIRE

Maranatha Schoolhouse does not have a school uniform, but we do enforce the wearing of modest and clean attire at all times. We ask that all clothing be clearly labelled with the child's name as we cannot be responsible for any items which are damaged or lost. During winter months, students are required to wear winter gear, including snow boots, coat, gloves and hat, since outdoor activities will take place daily, weather permitting. Student is required to bring a pair of shoes or slippers to wear indoors during those winter months, to keep the floors safe and dry.

SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Students are required to arrive no later than 8:55am so they are prepared to get started right at 9am every school morning. Doors are open at 8:30am, with staff supervision provided. Parents are asked to park their car in the rear parking lot or on a side street, and walk their child into

the school, ensuring the educator is aware of his/her arrival and checking them off on the attendance sheet posted at the entrance.

Students are picked up inside the school at 3 pm, and no later than 3:15 pm, ensuring that the educator is aware of their departure, and their departure is indicated on the attendance sheet posted at the entrance. Parents are asked to inform the educator well in advance should they need to take their child out of school before the 3pm end of school day. It is also very important for the parent to report to the school in writing (by text, email or note) if someone different is picking up the student. No student will be released to anyone other than their parent without such written consent.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of bad weather in the morning, parents will be notified by cellphone text and email of any need for school closure. Should severe weather develop during the school day, parents will be notified by phone call of the need to pick up their child early.

No student will be sent home early without the school first contacting his/her parents, or the named emergency contact if parents cannot be reached.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Maranatha Schoolhouse offers a balanced curriculum in line with the Complete Canadian Curriculum set out by Ministry of Education, and according to each grade level requirement. The Complete Canadian Curriculum series of books is based on the curriculum set by the Canadian Ministry of Education regarding essential studies and geared to each grade level: Math, English, Science, History, Geography and Social Studies. The curriculum-based practice units are designed to ensure that your child understands the concepts, and masters the necessary skills. With vivid illustrations and interesting activities, children find working through the Complete Canadian Curriculum both fun and rewarding. The curriculum will continue to be modified to meet individual needs. Parents are charged an annual curriculum fee at time of registration. Additional curriculum may be required throughout the year, with parents charged accordingly. Such added costs will be minimal and announced well in advance. A complete detailed description of student's grade-specific curriculum will be provided at registration time.

GUEST TEACHERS / FACILITATORS

Guest teachers / facilitators will be brought in on occasion to provide the students with extra-curricular activities, or to cover subjects of special interest. Such occasions will be announced to the parents and detailed well in advance.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The health and safety of students and staff is of paramount consideration. Every effort is made to ensure that students' safety and health is never compromised. The fire alarms are tested monthly, as are the fire extinguishers on each floor. Walkways and parking lot are always clear of any obstruction. Fire drills are conducted quarterly.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORSHIP

Central to the Maranatha Schoolhouse focus on safety and well-being is an aspiration for every student to achieve the four foundations of life: faith, beliefs, human rights and cultures. Through casual conversation, lifestyle examples and daily Assembly gatherings, Maranatha Schoolhouse helps ensure that all students can develop an understanding of how people's faith, beliefs, human rights and cultures are related to each of us, and how these rights can contribute to the freedom, dignity, well-being and safety of all people in our country. Students are taught to be equipped and empowered to seek support on issues relating to violation of such rights. In presenting this foundational teaching, we take into account a range of factors such as the student's age, existing knowledge, maturity and any additional learning needs. Such matters may be discussed casually in the course of a day, or presented in a more structured way such as a week's theme, or a topic raised at Assembly gathering time, and will always be geared to age-appropriateness. Judeo-Christian holidays will be taught and celebrated throughout the year.

PARENT REVIEW MEETINGS

Parent/Teacher meetings are offered twice annually, whereby each student's progress and future targets are discussed. These two meetings are scheduled by the educator, but parents are encouraged to request an impromptu meeting any time throughout the school year. Our door is always open to each student and their families, as we work together for the well-being and development of each student in our care.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

It is vital that the school always have up-to-date records of telephone numbers, emergency contacts etc. Parents moving from home or workplace should let the school know as soon as possible. Should parents' marital status or any other status affecting the child change, this should be made known to the school immediately, to ensure the child remains safe and supported during such transition periods.

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

The school recognizes that at times, the student and/or parent, may become concerned about some matter. It is important that such concerns and complaints be dealt with appropriately. At Maranatha Schoolhouse, our door is always open to our parents and students. We assure that any such concerns are addressed quickly, fairly and thoroughly. If you have a concern about something which you think is happening, or not happening in school, you are encouraged to take this up informally with the educator, who will usually be able to resolve your concern immediately. However, if an actual sit down scheduled visit is deemed, please speak with the educator immediately and schedule a time that is mutually satisfactory.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR AND PRIMARY EDUCATOR

Maranatha Schoolhouse is founded and developed by Carol Ford. Carol has a vast background in the area of education and administration. Carol began her career as an elementary school teacher in Welland Ontario. Wanting to remain involved in her two young children's development years, Carol then directed a number of large licensed day cares in Toronto, where her children attended with her. Carol and her husband also took a one-year sabbatical from their careers when their children were young, and moved to Haiti to help during the revolution there in the mid 1980s. During their time in Haiti, Carol homeschooled their children, as well as other missionary children. Upon their return to Canada, Carol homeschooled their children for another year to help them readjust. Once their children entered mid-school age, Carol pursued a career in the corporate world and grew into executive management positions where she maintained that passion for achievement until leaving the corporate scene in 2018. Carol then chose to return to education by opening and operating a home daycare with the commitment to help shape the next generation. Carol recently sold this home daycare business and has taken on the commitment of providing private education to families wishing to leave the public or separate school system in order to ensure their children are not subject to the mandates and unacceptable curriculum that have been imposed on families in recent years. Carol has a passion for helping individuals achieve all the potential available to them and transfers that passion onto others who sit under her tutoring. Carol operates in a transparent and partnership manner, instilling great confidence in the parents who choose to entrust her with their children's education and life development. Carol oversees all education curriculum, administration and policy/procedures of Maranatha Schoolhouse, but is very open to discussing any room for improvement. Carol can be reached anytime by text, phone, email or face-to-face.

Carol Ford, Administrator and Primary Educator
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