

**Gilbert Paterson Middle School
Registration Handbook 2020-21
GRADE 6**



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Welcome to Gilbert Paterson! This booklet contains general information regarding registration, option descriptions and grade 6 startup for the 2020-21 school year.

Please keep this for your reference. Use the option course descriptions to help you select options on during the online PowerSchool registration period of May 4-8. Instructions will be sent out.

A message from the Principal, Mr. Christiansen



Students and Parents:

Welcome to Gilbert Paterson! This spring has been an adjustment for students, staff and parents. We are eager to return to face to face instruction in the fall and are hopeful that we will be able to do so from day one. We are also realistic that we may not be starting the fall in the tradition manner. Regardless, classes begin on **Tuesday, September 1st, 2020.**

If we are able to have a conventional start with all students, the following activities will take place. We will have a **Grade 6 Open House** in the last week of August for all grade incoming grade 6 students to get their locks, tour the school and get comfortable with their new surroundings. You will receive a post card over the summer inviting you and the date and time will be on our website.

We will have a staggered entry with grade 6 coming first thing in the morning and grade 7/8 students coming after lunch. We feel this will give our grade 6's a smooth transition and the chance to learn about their new school and routines with help from all staff. As a result, start times are:

Grade 6 – meet in the small gym at 8:00-8:10 – Meet your homeroom teacher. Homeroom teachers (advisors) will collect students and then return to their homeroom classroom. In the homeroom classroom, students will receive their timetable, locker, lock, bus information and anything else they need to know. They will find out where their options and PE are, have a grade 6 assembly and learn the lunch routine. These tasks will take all morning and go into the afternoon.

Grade 7 and 8 – meet in the small gym (grade 7) and large gym (grade 8) at 12:20 – Homeroom teachers will collect their class and pass out timetables, lockers and other important information. Students will spend the afternoon in their homeroom or dyad. Regular classes will begin Wednesday for all students.

If we are unable to begin the school year in a conventional manner, you will be notified ASAP with alternate start up plans and procedures.

Please keep this booklet handy as it contains important information you may need to reference throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to call our office and speak to Leanna or Jennifer with any questions as well at (403) 329-0125.

Thank you, and we all look forward to seeing you in September!

Darryl Christiansen - Principal

How does my child get placed in a core class for grade 6?

There is much to consider in the creation of the composition of each class for the upcoming year and this takes us several weeks to work through each spring. We look at academic, physical, second language, and social / emotional / behavioral considerations. We consider children's personalities and how well they have worked together in the past. Gender ratios help us to balance out the rest. Finally, class sizes are considered so that each grade level class is similar in size. The current year's teachers play a large role in creating classes based on their experience working with the children in the school. We also transition with all of our feeder school teachers to gather the same insight and information regarding incoming grade 6 students.

Can I request a teacher or classroom for grade 6?

Due to the considerations described above and the sheer number of students, **we do not accept requests for specific teachers or classes**. At the same time, we believe that parents can provide us with invaluable insight with respect to what we should consider when placing your child.

Rather than accepting notes, letters, emails or phone calls from parents with information about their child, a **"Student Profile Form 2020-21"** has been created. This is optional and available for parents to let us know more about the educational, social and emotional needs of your child if you choose to do so. This form allows for communication of considerations that lie outside of requesting a specific teacher or classroom. **It is available on our website at the link below.**

<https://gp.lethsd.ab.ca/download/253060>

The key is to find the best balance for all of those factors within each class to help ensure that each child, and teacher, has the most successful year possible. Additionally, we need to remember that our staffing process is often not completed until after class lists are formed. Given all of these factors, we feel that it is best practice to no longer grant requests for specific teachers. **Should you wish to complete the form, please submit it by email to catherine.thorsen@lethsd.ab.ca by Monday May 11th.** Please contact school administration if you have any questions.

General Programming Information

This booklet is designed to help you plan your year at Gilbert Paterson so please keep it handy and refer to it as necessary. At Paterson we have two streams of programming for grade 6:

- English Learning – all core classes taught in English
- French Immersion – all core classes taught in French, available only to students who have completed French Immersion programming in elementary

As you are aware, students are assigned to a homeroom or dyad pattern for their core classes: Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and French Language Arts (for French Immersion students only). These core classes are built to maximize learning opportunities for all students. Physical Education and Health are also required to be taken by all students and are delivered by specialized teachers trained in those disciplines.

Students also receive elective/option classes of their choosing. Every effort is made to accommodate the choices made on the registration form. However, due to space, change in staffing or other circumstances, availability of options can change. And student may not get all the options they want.

General Guidelines for Electives/Options:

1. The school year is divided into 3 terms, each term having 2 option blocks. This means students could potentially have six different options each year.
2. Band and Choral are FULL YEAR options, meaning they will take up 3 of the 6 option blocks. Students who choose one of these options will then only fill an additional 3 option blocks.
3. On the registration form, students will be asked to indicate 8-10 options they have an interest in.
4. Be advised that some options have a supplementary fee attached to them to cover additional material and supply costs.
5. Option choices may change by fall start up based on numbers and staffing.

GRADE 6 Full Year Options

BAND - The Band program at Gilbert Paterson Middle School focuses on the fundamentals of wind and percussion instruments. There are no music prerequisites for this class. All students learn a new instrument at the same pace. Regular practice at home is required and attendance at retreats, festivals and evening performances is encouraged. ***Additional Costs*** *Students are required to rent an instrument. A rental night for the band parents is arranged at Paterson in June. If renting from the school, the cost per year is \$122.00 (for large instruments only) as well as a year end \$70 cleaning fee. Each student is also required to purchase a method book for \$17.00. Retreat costs vary and is communicated at the beginning of the school year.*

CHORAL - This option facilitates the learning of choral skills such as breathing, vocal production, communication, music theory, cooperation, commitment and self-discipline. Students enrolled in this course will be expected to attend performances at concerts, festivals & events. Some out of town travel may be required.

Additional Costs: \$75.00 per student *includes a performance shirt and covers the cost of a spring trip to ChoralFest South in Calgary.*

HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT - The Paterson Hockey Development is not technically an option, and will not take up any of a students' elective spaces. As part of this program, students will miss a core class during the last period each Monday during the season (late Sept-end of March) and travel to a local rink for some ice time. Bus transportation provided to the rink, parents responsible for pickup at approximately 4PM. Space is limited; please indicate current level of Lethbridge minor hockey experience on the registration form. **Please note that space in grade 6 may be limited and there is no guarantee that you will receive this program.**

Additional Costs: Each student enrolled in PHD will be required to pay a fee of \$250.00. Students are required to supply their own equipment & skates.

GRADE 6 Single Term Options

(Please note that some single term options have fees of \$10-\$25 to cover course materials)

ART - The focus will be on components of visual learning while simultaneously exploring students' creative side.

BABYSITTING/WRECK YOUR JOURNAL - This combines two 6 week mini courses. Students will learn about first aid and caregiving skills as set out by the St. John Ambulance Babysitting Course. You will then paint, poke, create, destroy, and wreck to end up with a journal as unique as you are.

BOOK CLUB - Calling all Book Worms! Book Club is a place where students get to follow their own interests, share good reads recommended by peers and teachers, or indulge in a favorite author. The formula for this class is simple: read and share books.

CLAYMATION – Learn to combine stop motion animation, storytelling, technology, and your creativity to produce videos through the use of plasticine characters and other materials.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS AND ANIMATION - Use special software to explore the creative side of computers to create and produce graphic artistry, magazines, brochures, and music videos.

CODE MAKERS 6 – In this introduction to computer programming, students will learn the basics of writing code. Patience and persistence will be essential as minor errors can cause program faults. All students will start at their own level of understanding with the chance to progress throughout the course.

CONSTRUCTION - A hands-on introduction to the safe use of hand tools & selected power tools and construction of wood products.

DRAMA & THEATRE - This class is designed to promote performing arts, ignite imagination and breed creativity through the study of mime, script work and other mediums of performance.

FITNESS - Students will acquire the knowledge, skills and attributes associated with fitness and an overall healthy lifestyle: cardiovascular, muscular strength, flexibility and muscular endurance in our fitness center.

FOODS - Students will work in groups to create culinary masterpieces and learn about food & kitchen safety, nutrition, simple meal planning, and food preparation techniques.

FRENCH - Students will acquire various skills and knowledge through communication, experience, culture, language formation and general language education. Four components of language learning are integrated, each having its own focus and emphasis.

HANDBELLS - Using handbells and hand chimes, students will learn many aspects of classic and contemporary music. No prior musical training or extensive instruction is required. Students will perform at a small number of concerts outside of school time.

LEADERSHIP - Students will discover and explore personal strengths through games, school activity planning, small group discussions and team building activities.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION – If you like the outdoors and a challenge, this option will be for you. Learn about knots, building shelters and surviving in the outdoors with hands-on activities. There will also be a fishing component that will include some field trips to city locations.

OUTDOOR TEAM GAMES - Through a variety of games and activities, students will develop fundamental body movements, an understanding of rules and fair play, teamwork and collaboration, and a personal enjoyment of activities.

PHOTOGRAPHY & SCRAPBOOKING - In this option, students will explore digital photography and printing, culminating with a dive into the world of scrapbooking. Each themed page will feature the photographs in an exciting and unique way. At the end of the term, students will be able to take their scrapbook home to share with family and friends.

PUZZLES & PROBLEMS - Are you interested in challenging yourself with creative problem solving, brainteasers, and a wide variety of puzzles and logic? Put your skills to the test using an assortment of materials and technology.

SOCCER –This option is for students who are currently playing organized soccer and would like to develop their skills further. Focus will be on skill development and game play. Students must have their own shin guards. This is a one term option offered in the fall and spring.

SPANISH - The learning of Spanish as a second language enables students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to communicate efficiently and effectively in a variety of situations and contexts. The program develops an appreciation of other cultures as well as their own.

TECHNOLOGY 101 – Students will be given firsthand opportunities to use various pieces of technology that will allow them to gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes for each. Moreover, students will be introduced to 13 pieces of technology, one a week, which students will be able to learn and use.

TRAVEL AND CULTURE - Students will create simple travel itineraries, researching countries of their choosing with their peers using a variety of tools to present their information to classmates. Students will also focus on learning about the various cultures in our building with a focus on language, customs and traditions. Acceptance is one of our key values at Paterson, through these studies we will continue to grow this!