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	Inquiring Minds Connections

INQUIRING MINDS CONNECTIONS

City Hall School is one of Edmonton's many Inquiring Minds Site Schools. Site schools offer teachers an opportunity to move their class to a community location for a tailored week of hands-on, experiential learning. Throughout this engaging experience, students immerse themselves in curriculum-related activities, make connections with the community, engage in real-world problem-solving tasks, and document their experiences through journaling.

This Beyond the Classroom Network approach to learning was pioneered by Gillain Kydd over 25 years ago. This program is supported by both the Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic School Boards.

Archives See Wonder Sep. Dund NSeiny hp this Outrinle S 5 D. ale milital ftom world viat Hollinger See PEOPle Lave a ask SER ONP news Papet Vontet Why · I

"Being a part of City Hall School has fostered curiosity and allowed my kids to be inquisitive. It has taught them the skill of how to ask strong questions. This program has given us the opportunities to be true explorers and learn through investigation."

- Teacher



inquiring minds

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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HOW CITY HALL SCHOOL CONNECTS

City Hall School began in 2006. Since its inception, it has been offering students a hands-on approach to learning outside of the traditional classroom settings. This initiative is a collaboration between the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Schools and involves seconding a teacher to develop the program. Tailored to Grade 1–12 students from both the Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic School Boards, City Hall School provides engaging, year-long programming related to municipal government and curricular outcomes.

> "City Hall school was a great experience for students. It was an engaging, hands-on experience where students were able to participate in, and see curriculum in action. The week reinforced the importance of creating real world examples and experiences of curriculum to help students learn about more difficult concepts."







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By leaving the classroom and immersing themselves in the rich learning community at City Hall, students develop an understanding of municipal government, citizenship, social responsibility and our city. They learn that this landmark building is not just the home of civic leadership but also a gathering place for the community.

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WHO WE CONNECTED WITH IN 2024/25

TASTAWIYINIWAK

Princeton

Grade 4–5

Yusra Soliman,

School,

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	How City Hall School Connects

ISGA **NAKOTA**

St.Vincent School, Carolyn Wakeham, Grade 6

Bishop David Motiuk School, Amanda Melnyk, Grade 1

Westmount School, Renee Ouellette, Grade 9

ANIRNIQ

Athlone School, Abby Mrkonjic, Grade 6

St. Pius X School, Rosa McCormack, Grade 4

DENE

Soraya Hafez School, Megan Hart, Grade 5

Homesteader School, Ozlem Kaya, Grade 4–5–6



-DAY'MIN Ō

Holy Child School, Hélène D'Astous, Grade 5–6

MÉTIS

Grade 3

Grade 6

Grade 6

Cailin Eaton,

Brandon Yassin,

St. Teresa of **Calcutta School** Mariangela Rosi Grade 6

St. Teresa of **Calcutta School** Erika Dubrule, Grade 6

SIPIWIYINIWAK

Norwood School, Annunciation Kendra Stamper, School, Kimberly Byker, Grade 5–6

Holyrood School, Annunciation School, Erin Stock, Holyrood School, Grade 6

> Annunciation School, Christie Trautman, Grade 2

Greenfield School, Liam McDowell, Grade 6

PAPASTEW

Our Lady of **Mount Carmel** School, Matthew Martin, Grade 6

St. Boniface School, Renee Nahayowski, Grade 1

St. Boniface School, Michelina Semeniuk, Grade 1

St. Mary School, Carla Barnfather & Jessica Prodor, Grade 3–4

PIHÊSIWIN

Steinhauer School, Michele Rogers, Grade 6

IPIIHKOOHKANIPIAOHTSI

St. Teresa School, Maria Rubio, Grade 6

KARHIIO

Greenview School Alan Tannas, Grade 6

Greenview School Cheri Krywko, Grade 5–6

Bisset School, Charlotte Rollans, Grade 6 **Bisset School**,

Robin Kinasevich, Grade 6

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WHO WE CONNECTED WITH BY THE NUMBERS

- + 29 Classrooms
- + 721 Students
- + **32** Visits to other COE Facilities
- + 29 City Hall Tours
- + 29 LRT Tours
- + **23** Mock Council Sessions
- + 6 Classes Offered Programming in French

- **5** Shared Weeks*



+ 1 Class Offered Programming in Spanish

*where two classes from the same school share the City Hall School experience in order to increase access to the program

+ 3 Classes Given a Partial Fee Waiver* *in order to make the program more equitable and ensure students from all over the City are able to attend the program



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CONNECTING **ALL YEAR LONG**

At the beginning of the school year, each class is presented with a set of personal journals for the students, a Key to the City, as well as an opportunity to meet Madame Moselle and Sohi Saurus.

The days students spend at City Hall are the catalyst for a year of engagement and a lifetime of possibilities. The weekly eNewsletter, the City Beat, provides





opportunities for classes to be connected to City of Edmonton issues, events and initiatives throughout the entire year.

The year finishes up with an in-person Citizenship Fair in June, which brings schools who participated in City Hall School together at City Hall to showcase their work inspired by their experiences.



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"I think this specific week-long field trip should be recommended to all Edmonton Schools. Just joining this one day makes me want to come back for the remainder of the week. It was very educational – even for me as a parent."

- School Volunteer

"I liked having a driving question that we can focus on throughout the year. It gives us this common thread to weave throughout lessons in different subjects, and I like having that consistent framework."

- Teacher



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CONNECTING WITH THE CITY

The diversity of our city is reflected in the students who attend City Hall School. Some students are newcomers to Canada, some are enrolled in bilingual or immersion programs, and some are in programs for students with learning and cognitive disabilities. Being able to use the City of Edmonton as a classroom provides real life learning, allowing students to make authentic connections to key topics and themes from their school year.

During their time at City Hall, students learn to appreciate and value their city in a deeper way. As students learn about the history of our city, its growth, and the plan our leaders have for the future, they realize that the future we are building is for them. This fosters not only a sense of pride, but also a sense of belonging.

the best activities at city Hall doing the scalenger Hunt of like to learn about mayors in the pass. Decause. doing the mock council because also Pretending is so cool. I learned about councillor Rutherford's job. One 101 I thought was interestings was being mayor. To help MY city I can pick up garbon City Hall made my life bright up because it made me feel welcome to Edmit.

"City hall school has given me the opportunity to help my students" connect more with the city during the trip and throughout the year (ex. newsletters). We've been having a lot more discussions in the classroom about what it means to be a citizen/Edmontonian and I hope to continue that in future years''





- Teacher

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"The students loved it – they have been saying it was the "best field trip ever." They speak very specifically about the different activities we did, and what they learned from each of them!"

– Teacher

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CONNECTING WITH CITIZENSHIP

Learning from people who share their expertise and passion is a special part of the experience. Through their involvement, the Mayor and Council Members lend their support to City Hall School by actively engaging with classes and igniting students' curiosity about how democracy and government works.

Students also become informed and civically engaged citizens. They acquire new skills to leverage their voices for positive change. They also learn that they can not only advocate for themselves, but can lend a helping hand in their community and in the city as a whole.







"One of the best activities at City Hall was the Mock Council. The reason I like this activity is because I was a councillor.''

-Grade 4 Student

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CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

City Hall School offers students a platform to learn more about social responsibility through meaningful opportunities to engage with several complex topics related to their learning.

Many presenters share their passion and perspective on issues of poverty, houselessness, reconciliation, inclusivity and equity. The lessons learned at City Hall School often resonate deeply with students, motivating them to share what they have learned at their schools, with their families and in their communities.



Hall School. On this last day, please write about CHANGE. How has this week changed you? How will you help change your city?

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"This week highlighted the importance of connecting with community. It allows students to better understand the City in which they live. As well, it takes away some of the stigma associated with downtown and the LRT. Meeting so many people from all walks of life allows students to see things from different points of view and builds empathy''

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- Teacher

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This year, several classes were recipients of United Way Dentons Make Your Mark grants for studentled projects that take action against local poverty. As students organized and ran donation drives, they had the opportunity to share their knowledge about poverty and their passion for helping others. At City Hall School, students learn that little things, like breakfast bags and socks that are donated to local organizations, can all make a difference.

n gras R Today I learned that illuman doe's much more than giving stuff which I find really cool. O Today at ithuman I saw a lot of cool art that people from 12-24 made and it looks amazing. WI wonder how much people's ort is in the ituman place.



"All of our conversations about equity, citizenship, poverty, and community were such great ways of connecting our class to the broader city community. I focus on many of these topics in class, however, it is different when the students get to experience them first hand. We completed our final reflection back at school this morning, and one student told me they felt changed from our five days in that they were 'less-judgmental.''



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CONNECTING WITH CAREER PATHWAYS

Whether we welcome guest speakers into our classroom or travel around the city to meet experts, their presence brings curriculum to life and motivates students to consider possible career pathways. Students learn how adults use creative thinking, problem-solving abilities, collaboration, effective communication, and design thinking in their jobs.

Many students also have the opportunity to conduct small group interviews with some of these guests, which helps them learn about a variety of careers. They hear different personal journeys, some that took unexpected turns and detours. All of these experiences teach students to consider their own strengths and interests and understand how these can be applied to a wide range of careers.







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CONNECTING WITH THE CURRICULUM

As a foundation for their experience at City Hall School, each teacher proposed a big idea or inquiry question to investigate with their class. Through presentations, interviews with experts and site visits, we use an inquiry approach to connect to many curricular outcomes. Connecting curricular outcomes and these real world experiences helps students understand the "why" behind what they are learning in school.



"What a wonderful program! The gr.6 curriculum includes
 learning about government and these students had first hand
 experience in the workings of our Civic Government. Thank
 you City of Edmonton"

-School volunteer

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CONNECTING THROUGH JOURNALING

Students use a journal as a tool to reflect on and record their new learning and their experiences. They start using it in September with their classroom teacher by noting down questions, participating in research activities, and responding to the weekly City Beat eNewsletters.

While at City Hall School, students continue to use
their journals to take notes, sketch, collect stickers and
reflect upon their experiences. The daily reflection time
allows students to clarify and process what they have
learned. Teachers can even respond to student journal
entries to continue a dialogue about the day's events.



By the end of the school year, students are proud to show their work (and stickers) in their journals. They become keepsakes, and evidence of the incredible growth and learning students have done throughout the year.

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CONNECTING WITH THE LAND AND INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

At City Hall School, students learn that Edmonton has been a gathering place, a travelling route and a place to call home for Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. Throughout the year, we discuss and explore the fact that we are all Treaty People. At school and at City Hall, students are given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of what it means to live on Treaty 6 Territory and on traditional Metis homeland. From Orange Shirt Day, to Metis Week, to National Indigenous Peoples Day in June, students are encouraged to use their voices to share their new knowledge and understanding with others.

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Another way we make these connections is by looking at Indigenous languages and meanings – for example, learning that this place is named amiskwaciwâskahikan, meaning 'Beaver Hill House'' in Cree. Students also have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the historical and cultural meanings behind Edmonton's newly amended Wards with Indigenous names and about EPL's Thunderbird House (PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN) at the Stanley Milner Library. Some classes visit and are inspired by the art at À&-o (ÎNÎW) River Lot 11∞ Indigenous Art Park and the Tawatinâ Bridge. Students also use artwork in City Hall and around the downtown core as a jumping off point to discuss the City's Indigenous Framework.







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THANKS TO OUR TEAM **OF CONNECTORS**

There are so many individuals who have shown tremendous support for City Hall School in a variety of ways. It would be impossible to name them all. The following people are those who shared their passion and time with our students.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Tim Cartmell, Sarah Hamilton, Michael Janz, Andrew Knack, Aaron Paguette, Karen Principe, Jennifer Rice, Erin Rutherford, Ashley Salvador, Anne Stevenson, Amarjeet Sohi, Keren Tang, Jo-Anne Wright

Bailey Daines, Jayanthi Karan Mathur, Salimah Valiani

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Eddie Robar – City Manager Melissa Kuriyama – Senior Executive Advisor to the Chief of Staff

CITY OPERATIONS

Jennifer Bird – Electrician

Andrea Atkings, Jazmin Hewitt, Simranjit Kharal, Paige Phaneuf -Natural Areas

Masha Ribich – Safe Mobility

Ray Burgess – Safety

Paul Arsenault, Bianca Gaggero, Camryn Marcichiw, Yolanda Pyrdol, Elaine Stone, George Szilagyi -Urban Forestry

Mike Simpson – Waste Services

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Aj Dimas–Lehndorf – Bylaws Cindy Atkey, Laurie Bisset – Citizen and New Arrival Information Centre

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

Tara Bilak, Natalie Clark, Harleen Gill, David Jenkinson, Debbie Mainwaring, Hannah Marsh, Jackie Scott – City Hall Tour Guides Eric Fincham, Kathryn Ivany, Melissa McCarthy – City of Edmonton Archives

Angelica Huynh, Nicole Poirier -Civic Events and Festivals

Nate Feller, Jesse Gros-Louis, Tam Rosnau, Natasha Shaw -Commonwealth Rec Centre Christine Causing -

Social Development

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Audrey, Elvira, Hugo, Maria, Michelle R., Michelle T., Chelsea, Shelby -Stanley Milner Staff

FINANCIAL & CORPORATE SERVICES

lain Gillis, Emily Meyers-Armstrong, Logan Moran – Open Data

INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Carol Belanger – Architect Tom Lumsden – Blatchford Ryan Teplitsky – Bridge Engineers Tania Gonzalez – LRT Expansion and Renewal

URBAN PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY

Marco Melfi – City Planners

lan Hosler – Jane's Walk

Alanna Young – Mapping and GIS

Adam Holmes, Mirabelle Premont-Schwarz, Ashlyn Renner, Heather Wheeliker – Environment and Climate Resilience

AFFILIATES

David Turnbull – Edmonton Arts Council

Joseph Legaspi, Krina Patel – Edmonton Convention Centre

Kyla Fisher – Edmonton Heritage Council

OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS

Brian Christy, Linda Hut -1881 Schoolhouse David Béliveau, Chris Martin – CBC Lorene, Roberta, Roger, Rose – CKUA Kelly Cunningham, Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, Shannon Fleury, Jenn Parsonage -Community Leagues Alene Mutala – ECSD Trustee

Cheryl McLeod – Edmonton Oilers ICE School

Julie Kusiek – EPSB Trustee

Donna Coombs-Montrose -

Historian Laureate Sean Arceta, Beryl Bacchus,

Belinda Leon, Allie Saurette iHuman Youth Society

Justice Creagh, Justice Groves, Justice Marriott, Justice Palichuk, Justice Roy, Justice Tibbitt – Law Courts

Mike Cabiltes, Jacqueline Kanini -Mustard Seed

Amanda Bachard – Oilers Entertainment Group

Nicol Garzon – Royal Alberta Museum

Michael – School at the Legislature and Legislature Visitor Centre Staff

Jonathan Sutton - Winspear

Echo Keizer, Jaycee Meneen -Women's Advisory Voice of Edmonton

Dr. Victor Shegelski -University of Alberta

Dakota, Margaret, Devotosh, Josh -University of Alberta Observatory



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CONNECT WITH US

CITY HALL SCHOOL

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@cityhallschool

@cityhallschool

edmonton.ca/CityHallSchool

Student responses to 'How has CHS changed you?'

- + City Hall School made me stronger! Not only it made my brain stronger but my body too! We went on MANY walks and although it was tiring... it was fun!
- + I learned a lot about my city's history.
- + I used to think the LRT was a weird gadget and now I think it helps the environment.
- + I learned that if I build a building that I should add buttons, elevators and braille for people so it is accessible.
- + I will visit downtown in the future to go to EPL, the Citadel Theatre and City Hall.
- + You taught me about the LRT and many other things.
- + I learned that everyone has a voice.
- + It really opened my mind and made me more accepting of things.
- + I learned how our local government works.
- + Now I know how a Council Meeting works and that without Councillors the city wouldn't work very well.
- + I realized I want to be a councillor one day.
- + City Hall School changed me by showing me this is home to a lot of people. We need to help each other out so no one feels alone or left out.
- + I learned more about our city's history and what life was like in the past here.
- + I now know way more about our government and how it works.
- + I didn't know that City Hall is a people place but now I know people can just go there.
- + I feel more motivated to help people in Edmonton.

- + City Hall School made me realize that houseless people have a home. And that home is EDMONTON!
- + I learned more about City Hall and got to see so many new places in the city.
- + One of my favourite things was the old buildings and learning about them and visiting them.
- + At first I was a bit scared of downtown. But now I realize that the people I see are human too. Humans who need and deserve love.
- + I think this field trip made me a better person.
- + I learned a lot about art at City Hall School. Now I appreciate all the art we have in the city.
- + The Mustard Seed taught me that small things can make a big difference!
- + I got to travel to a bunch of different places that I had not seen before.
- + This week made me more curious.
- + I learned that you can play on the art by Churchill Square.
- + City Hall School gave me a new perspective on some things. Like people experiencing homelessness.
- + I learned that EPL is one of the coolest places in the city.