

Archbishop Joseph MacNeil

Catholic Elementary/Junior High

2026-2027

AJM Mavericks: What You Need To Know



750 Leger Way
Edmonton, AB T6R 3H4
Phone: 780-471-4218
Fax: 780-471-1731
Principal: Daryl Chichak

www.archbishopjosephmacneil.ecsd.net

Contents

- 2** WELCOME MESSAGE
- 3** SCHOOL OPENING
- 3** SCHOOL HOURS
- 3** POWERSCHOOL
- 4** REQUIRED PROGRAMS
- 4-7** COMPLEMENTARY COURSES (OPTIONS)
- 8** ACADEMICS & EAP PROGRAM
- 9** ATHLETICS
- 9-10** PROGRAMS & EVENTS
- 11-12** GENERAL INFORMATION
- 13** BASIC SUPPLY LIST
- 14** ECSD TECHNOLOGY EXPECTATIONS
- 15** SCHOOL LAYOUT

Welcome Message

Welcome to Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Elementary/Junior High School... and your Junior High experience! AJM offers you the opportunity to grow academically, socially, physically and spiritually. In addition to our quality academic programs, we also have an outstanding complementary program including Fine Arts Courses and Career and Technology Foundation Courses. We offer a variety of clubs and athletic teams from which to choose. Our caring, Catholic atmosphere will help each of you develop to your full potential. The courses and desired extracurricular activities will make your junior high experience!

The staff at AJM is dedicated to providing exceptional learning opportunities, encouragement and guidance. With the support of your parents, along with hard work and a positive attitude, your educational experience at AJM promises to be rewarding and fun! We look forward to you joining the AJM family!

CHARISM

Let us grow together into Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a Catholic education that inspires students to grow together into Christ, becoming lifelong learners committed to faith, service and excellence.

VISION STATEMENT

Connecting our Catholic learning community through Christ centered creativity, inquiry, faith, and love.

School Opening

First Day of School - September 8th

A welcome email will be sent by administration towards the end of August with specifics on school times, operations, etc.



Grade 7 students will find their homeroom lists in the gymnasium. The homeroom teachers will be there to welcome the students. You will be given a day of discovery and learning about our AJM community.



Grade 8 and 9 students will start in the afternoon, heading to their homeroom classes and completing an afternoon of community building.



Homerooms will be made available on PowerSchool on Tuesday, September 8th. No changes will be made to homerooms.



All students should bring their basic supplies on the first day (See page 13).

School Hours



There are 4 blocks in the morning and 3 blocks in the afternoon.



School doors open @ 8:00 am. The first bell rings at 8:15 to allow students to organize themselves for the morning. Students are asked to leave the school at the end of the day promptly at 2:55 pm unless part of a team.



AJM operates on a Monday-Friday schedule.

PowerSchool



PowerSchool is a secure website where parents and guardians can monitor their child's progress, grades, attendance, progress reports and be in contact with their child's teachers.



The portal of PowerSchool allows parents & students to have real-time access to information for each child.



You can adjust the notification settings to suit your personal needs.



Visit <https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public>

Required Programs

As part of the mandatory school program, all students will be enrolled in the following subjects:

- Religious Education
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Health and Life Skills

Complementary Courses (Options)

AJM Catholic Junior High School offers a wide selection of complementary courses. Descriptions of these courses can be found on the following pages. Students must choose the equivalent of two options per semester. French and Music are all full year courses (i.e. two semesters). Courses listed below that have a “*” are full year courses.

Grade 7 Options

- French (required) *
- Band (required) *
- Art
- Business
- Construction & Design
- Foods & Fashion
- Communication Technology
- Drama

Grade 8 Options

- French *
- Band *
- Art
- Business
- Construction & Design
- Foods & Fashion
- Communication Technology

Grade 9 Options

- French *
- Band *
- Recreation Leadership
- Art
- Business
- Construction & Design
- Foods & Fashion
- Communication Technology



Please read course descriptions carefully before choosing. There will be no option changes once assigned.



Students will be asked to indicate the order of their preferences on a Microsoft Form, which will be available on our school website on each grade's assigned date. Students may not necessarily get their first choices. Course availability is dependent upon enrollment and teacher availability. As a guide, options will be assigned in the order the requests were received.

Complementary Courses (Options)

Art

Creative expression and the exploration of art elements & principles are the foundation of the Visual Arts program. This option gives students an opportunity to develop skills in drawing, painting and three-dimensional representations. For all grades, the AJM Fine Art Program is centered around a TAB (Teaching Art Behaviours) instructional framework. This choice-centered approach regards students as artists and provides them real choices for reflecting their own ideas and interests when making art. This approach in art education supports multiple modes of art exploration & learning. The students will create, reflect upon, and respond to art using a variety of techniques & processes. In Grade 7, students will have the opportunity to experience drawing different forms, painting, pastel and India ink work, relief composition, or sculpture. In Grade 8 students have more time to expand these processes and techniques to also explore printmaking, and multi-media projects. In Grade 9, students will deepen their understanding through exploration of art history and contemporary artists of our time. At AJM, the art option is meant to foster a love of creativity and exploring all areas of art regardless of skill set in order to discover one's individual artistic style!

Music - Instrumental Band

(All grade 7 students must take band)

The band program provides opportunities for junior high students to develop their skills and abilities in music. Students develop and improve aural, technical, theoretical, interpretive, and synthesis skills. They also learn to play with good tone and intonation as well as to interpret the repertoire studied. In Grade 7, band students learn about the instrument of their choice, how to play, listen, and how to make a critical judgment on music. They also learn to interpret rhythm, melody, harmony, and form. Grade 8 & 9, students develop aspects of these skills but at an advanced and appropriate level for the student's ability. All band students are also encouraged to express themselves creatively through improvisation and interpretation of music. In addition, social and historical aspects of repertoire are discussed to encourage growth in the value of appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of music. Grade 7 band is a pre-requisite for Band 8 and Band 8 is a pre-requisite for Band 9. To take Band 10 at the high school level, students must have completed Band 9.

French as a Second Language

(All grade 7 students must take French)

Through the thematic study of French language and culture, students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be effective global citizens. In their exploration of these cultures, they also gain respect and appreciation for all cultures. Students use French in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes, acquiring strategies to maximize the effectiveness of their learning and communication. Coursework is largely project-based, but also requires students to complete a written, spoken, and listening component. The development of language competence varies amongst students. Because success is based on repetition, all students are encouraged to review and practice daily, such as reviewing their notes, reading texts or watching films.

Career and Technology Foundations (CTF)

CTF allows students to explore their interests and passions while making personal connections to career possibilities. Students participate in hands-on learning experiences and work towards creating real-life products, presentations or services. Students develop communication, collaboration, critical thinking, time management and problem solving skills. Students build their understanding of the world around them as they identify and apply career and life skills. The CTF program at AJM includes Communication Technology, Foods & Fashion, Construction & Design, Enterprise & Innovation and Recreation Leadership.

Complementary Courses (Options), cont.

Construction and Design (CTF)

Students will learn basic woodworking skills, develop safe work place practices, learn safe operation of machinery, and learn practical solutions to solving problems when building projects. Some of the projects that students make in CTS Grades 7 and 8 are bridge construction, CO₂ cars, furniture, turning pens or bowls and drafting. Grade 9 features possible projects such as a passive speaker, gumball machine, 3D printing, or a project of the student's choice. Successful completion of modules in this strand is intended to provide students with a broad base of relevant theory and practice that builds daily living and career-specific skills.

Communication Technology (CTF)

Comm. Tech. students will be challenged to move beyond basic levels of computer skills and other technologies. Throughout the three years students will increase in the depth of knowledge and understanding of the various technologies. Although no pre-requisites are required, it is important for students to have a passion for computers and digital technologies. Throughout the three years they will explore the following areas of interest: Office & Google Suite platform exploration, typing basics, introduction to coding through code.org, Scratch and Python platforms, 2D and 3D digital design, and deeper exploration depending on previous experience.

Enterprise and Innovation (Business)

In the Enterprise and Innovation option course, the instructional platform is real life. From the moment students enter the classroom they will be immersed in the business world! As authentic entrepreneurs, our students in Grades 7-9 will have an opportunity to earn a profit and gain lifelong skills through the creation and operation of their very own Marketplace business venture. This course is designed to provide all students with authentic learning experiences that will increase their "Sphere of Influence", enable them to make connections to the world, give back to the community through charitable initiatives, and to truly see value in all aspects of academic learning/leadership.

Foods and Fashion 7 (CTF)

This course is intended to give an overview of two CTF (Career and Technology Foundation) paths, Foods and Fashion. The program is presented in a semester format to our grade 7 students and offers them the opportunity to develop lifelong skills in areas indispensable to everyday life. The Foods component covers safety and sanitation rules for the kitchen, basic kitchen equipment use, fundamental techniques through a series of labs, reading and following recipes. In Fashion, basic hand stitches, iron safety, machine sewing and safety techniques, and conclude with a final project.

Food Studies Grade 8 & 9 (CTF)

The Foods 8 and 9 program is presented as a semester option with entry at any grade. This option includes the development and preparation of a variety of foods inclusive of the CTF (Career and Technology Foundation) component. The course begins with food safety with a focus on processing, preparing, handling and serving food safely. Students will complete a variety of recipes/projects through group collaboration to develop competencies in techniques and tools when cooking. They will examine food choices in relation to Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating and other reliable guidelines.

Complementary Courses (Options), cont.

Drama-Grade 7 Only

A Drama class builds strong communication and collaboration skills while helping students grow in confidence, creativity, and self-expression. Students learn how to read, analyze, and mark scripts, make purposeful actor choices, and understand how character and scene analysis shape the give-and-take of dialogue. Through performance and improvisation techniques, students develop adaptability, active listening, and the ability to think on their feet. These outcomes are achieved through the four major disciplines of drama: Movement, Speech, Acting/Improvisation, and Technical Theatre.

Recreation Leadership (CTF)-Grade 9 Only

Application Required

Students will develop skills to enable them to become independent, positive leaders. Participation is expected in various activities, which promote leadership skills and independence and growth of interpersonal skills. They will learn how to successfully plan, organize and implement an intramural program and a variety of special events within our school community. Involvement in school event planning to promote a healthier, active school setting is an important goal. Students will also participate in a fitness component that is outside of the regular physical education curriculum and can include such topics as eating right, making a fitness goal and creating a plan to meet those goals, mindfulness, promotion of living a healthier life. Students will partake in a variety of field trips to learn about community, and to understand the operations and structure of a variety of fitness studios.

Academics & EAP Program

All students in grades 7-9 take Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Health, Religion, and Physical Education. For more information on curriculum objectives at each grade level, please visit Alberta Education's website at <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/> or contact your child's teachers. Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Junior High School is a designated district site for the delivery of the Enhanced Academic Program. This program, using the Alberta Program of Studies, will prepare students to acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning.

Application Deadline is March 20, 2026

No late applications will be accepted.

Families will be notified via email if the student is selected for the program.

The Enhanced Academic Program (EAP) is based on the following two principles:

1. The expectation that students perform at rigorous academic levels. To reflect this, the curriculum will challenge students to expand their knowledge and skills at a broader level.
2. The belief that through the development of skills, acquisition of knowledge and engagement in their learning, students can be prepared for increased academic commitment.

The Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Junior High School Enhanced Academic Program will:

- Comprehensively cover and extend the curriculum, as well as enrich specific learner outcomes as outlined in the Program of Studies for each subject.
- Use inquiry-based learning, problem-based learning and project-based learning to provide for an engaging and challenging learning environment.
- Include the incorporation of a global viewpoint from our faith-based, Catholic perspective that is founded on our social justice service towards others, which underscores the permeation of our values as we instill skills of responsibility and positive citizenship in our world.

EAP is offered in the following subject areas in grades 7-9:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Students are required to apply to the EAP program each year. The EAP class acts as a cohort, and as such, all 4 core subjects must be taken. Application deadline March 20, 2026. Please see school website for up to date information.

Athletics

If competition and developing your skills in a particular sport are for you, AJM definitely has opportunities! Junior and senior teams for both boys and girls are available in most sports. The teams compete against other schools in soccer, cross country running, volleyball, basketball, curling, track & field, badminton, and slow pitch at Division 1/2.

The AJM athletic teams have a history of pride, excellent sportsmanship and a high caliber of performance.

Senior Teams are part of the junior high league and in addition to the regular season, they also compete in up to three additional tournaments throughout the season. Junior Teams also participate in the junior league and can be entered into various tournaments depending on the sport and coach.

Soccer

Cross Country

Volleyball

Basketball

Curling

Badminton

Slow Pitch

Track & Field



Programs & Events

Intramural Program

Participation and fun are the focus of the intramural program. During the lunch break, students have an opportunity to join a variety of events:

- Basketball Free Throw
- Dodgeball
- Volleyball
- Floor Hockey
- 4 on 4 Basketball
- Bump
- Special Events

Friendly competition and socialization are the benefits that make everyone a winner!

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The purpose of the School Advisory Council is to promote the exchange of ideas and involvement of parents and school staff in matters relating to programs and policy. The School Council provides parents and staff with a forum for communication and an opportunity to positively support the educational vision of AJM. Please contact the principal or School Council chairperson for inquiries.

Programs & Events, cont.

Clubs

There are a number of clubs and activities available to students at AJM.

- Leadership Team
- Choir
- Art
- Yearbook
- Broadcast Team
- Jazz & Honour Band

The focus is on developing students' interests and talents. The benefits are making new friends and getting involved in interesting activities.

Special Events

Several events enjoyed by the students are held each year. Some of these include:

- Religious Celebrations
- Pancake Breakfast
- Activity Days
- Guest Presentations
- Athletic Tournaments
- Band Concerts
- Student Leadership Team Special Events (theme days)
- Fine Arts Night
- Fieldtrips
- Faith Development
- Marketplace

Lunch Hour

Students are expected to choose from the following activities available during lunch recess:

- Intramurals
- Outdoors
- Study Hall

Student Supports

We are pleased to offer a variety of supports to all students at AJM to ensure student success. With this focus in mind, we have created a team of professionals that will support all students in need of academic, mental health and/or social supports. The student support team consists of:

- Admin Team
- Instructional Coach
- School Psychologist
- TA-BTs
- TA-OTs
- Educational Assistants

Religious/Faith Life

Throughout the year, school wide religious celebrations are held. These mark events such as School Opening, Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent and Year End. Our school community is served by:

St. Thomas More Parish
210 Haddow Close (780) 434-6313

General Information

Agenda Books

All junior high students will be given an AJM agenda on the first day of school through their homeroom teachers. Effective use of an agenda book helps facilitate better time management, organization, and improved academic performance.

Morning Arrival

The school is open to students at 8:00 am. We do not have supervision available for students before this time.

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS, WE ASK THAT DRIVERS REFRAIN FROM ENTERING THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT TO DROP OFF STUDENTS IN THE MORNING OR TO PICK THEM UP AFTER SCHOOL. THE PARKING LOT IS FOR STAFF MEMBERS ONLY, AS WELL AS STUDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES THAT HAVE EXPRESS PERMISSION FROM ADMINISTRATION TO USE THE ACCESSIBLE PARKING STALLS.

Homework

Homework is an extension and reinforcement of daily learning. The amount of time each student will spend doing homework will vary according to grade, ability and work habits. Research shows that regularly assigned and completed homework leads to higher academic achievement, as well as improved study skills, attitudes and success. There are many ways parents can help with homework, including:

- providing a quiet, regular place of work
- help organize a regular time for homework
- be the audience for reading and written work
- check PowerSchool daily
- reviewing your child's completed assignments

The support and interest of parents will have a major impact on student attitudes towards homework. It is critical that students have a homework buddy in case of absence. If you have questions about the assignments your child is bringing home, please speak with or email the teacher.

Attendance/Late Arrival

Punctuality and regular attendance at school are important factors that positively affect student achievement. Parents have the responsibility to ensure that their children attend regularly and arrive on time. **PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IN ADVANCE IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT.** Parents who do not phone the school will be contacted by our computerized attendance management system to notify you of the unverified absence. This occurs in the morning and after lunch. Students who are late must report to the office before entering class. Parents will be contacted should a pattern of lateness or poor attendance develop. Students who must leave the school during the school day for appointments or illness are required to report to the office. Parent contact must be made to verify the departure before leaving school.

Communication

The newsletter and calendar of events are posted on our school website. The website address is: www.archbishopjosephmacneil.ecsd.net Parents will also be emailed our 'Parent Weekly Newsletter' each Friday. This is a great way to know upcoming dates, information and parent council news.

Lunch Time Policy

Students are encouraged to bring a lunch to school. A selection of food choices and beverage items are available through the concession. It is extremely important that students recognize that staying at school for lunch is a convenience and a privilege, rather than a right. As such, appropriate behaviour is expected at all times. Grade 9 students eat their lunch in the gathering area, grades 7 and 8 eat in our cleaned gym. **We are a closed campus during lunch time, and students are expected to remain on school property unless they have written permission to go home.**

General Information, cont.

Bicycles, Skateboards, etc.

Bicycles are to be locked in the racks provided and left alone until dismissal. The school does not take responsibility for theft or damage. Students are reminded that helmets are mandatory by law. Other forms of transportation such as skateboards, scooters, etc. are not to be used on school property.

School Security

Parents and visitors are required to report to the office **before** contacting students or teachers. For safety reasons all of the doors are locked during school hours. Please use the front entrance. A video surveillance system is also in place.

Personal Property

Students are encouraged to leave valuable or unnecessary items at home. The school cannot be held responsible should these items be lost, damaged or stolen. Student owned devices are allowed for learning purposes. Your teacher will communicate class expectations to you.

Bus Passes

ETS and yellow bus passes are available for purchase through the office. Parents are encouraged to pay on-line through PowerSchool for bus pass purchases monthly. For more information please visit <https://www.ecsd.net/transportation>

School Fees

Compulsory Fee: School fees will be published at the start of the year. These will include complementary courses and school activities.

Other Fees:

Yearbook (optional).....TBD

Clubs/Teams/Fieldtrips.....TBD

Parents will be emailed a personalized fee invoice in September as well as periodically throughout the year as new fees are added. **School fees can be paid online anytime through your PowerSchool account using a credit card or Visa/Mastercard Debit card.** Parents experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the administration to arrange a payment plan. Students are expected to pay for lost or damaged text books or library books and for purposeful damage to equipment or technology.

Basic Supply List

The following list is a suggested guide

1 200 pages Plain Loose-leaf paper
4 200 pages Ruled Loose-leaf paper
1 100 sheets Graph Loose-leaf 1cm X 1cm paper
4 Duo-Tangs (assorted colours)
12 HB Pencils
1 pkg Blue or Black Pens
2 Red Pens
2 Highlighters
1 pkg Pencil Crayons
1 White Eraser
1 21g Glue Stick
1 Whiteout tape NOT liquid
2 Index Dividers – pkg of 8 (16 dividers total)
1 Pencil Sharpener
1 Pencil Pouch
1 Pointed Scissors
1 30 cm Clear Plastic Ruler
1 Scientific Calculator – T130X 4 -
2 2 inch Binders **OR** 1-2 4 inch Binders
Geometry Set (Grade 7 only)

AJM Agenda Provided

Physical Education:

It is mandatory to change for PE

Athletic Shoes
A change of clothes
Deodorant

A Maverick's PE shirt can be purchased through the office.



Students will be provided with a school lock.

A fee of \$12 will be applied to student accounts in the case of misplaced locks.

A statement of 21st Century Learning in Edmonton Catholic Schools

Preparing our students for a world not yet realized

In keeping with our Foundation Statement, the students and staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools commit to 21st century learning. In support of hopeful Christ-centered living, in a society transformed by globalization, technological innovation, and human ingenuity, 21st century learning complements our commitment as a Catholic community of learners, leaders, and educators. Edmonton Catholic Schools fosters faith-based learning that deeply engages all students and staff in 21st century learning opportunities.

Computer and Internet Use

All students must have the Edmonton Catholic Schools Acceptable Use Agreement signed by themselves and their parent/guardian. This agreement will apply to all school and personal devices that students are permitted to use on our school network. Misuse of this privilege or the network may result in loss of use.

All upper elementary and junior high students may bring their own devices to school for educational purposes during class time and **under direct teacher supervision** only. Teachers have the right to determine how, when, and to what extent, devices may be used in their classrooms. Students will follow the District Technology Responsible Use Agreement at all times. No texting, listening to music, watching videos, gaming or social networking of any kind unless it is directed by the teacher as part of the educational program. **No school pictures or videos of any kind should be taken or posted on any social media or personal sites. Teachers and administrators have the right to take the device if it is not used for educational purposes.** Devices should be fully powered prior to using them at school to avoid loss of time, management issues and overloading of electrical outlets. Students who do not follow the procedures for device use or the network may result in loss of privilege, confiscation or other sanctions deemed appropriate to the circumstance. Owning a digital device is **NOT** a requirement. **The school is not responsible for lost or damaged items.** No technical support will be given to personal devices.

Google Classroom

Students - **You must use the Google Chrome Browser.**

Sign in with your school schoolid#@school.ecsd.net (ie - 2222222@school.ecsd.net) and the same password that you use to log on to a computer at school.

Then enter this web address: classroom.google.com

Parents - Here is a helpful info sheet <https://bit.ly/2IkMBO1> Parents should not be logging in under their child's account, but rather be invited to receive parent update emails only. This protects the privacy of all the other students in the Google Classroom.

School Layout

