

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Enrollment is on a first-come-first-served basis via a waiting list.
- No tuition.
- CAPE presently has 136 students in Kindergarten – grade 8 (as of October 2008).
- Class sizes are capped at 16 students for Kindergarten – grade 3, and 20 students for grades 4 – 8.
- The student-teacher ratio is 10.9 students to 1 teacher (7.3 to 1 including assistants).
- CAPE's staff consists of 12.37 FTE teachers, 1.0 administrator, 1.0 FTE special education coordinator/counselor, 6.0 FTE classroom teacher assistants, one 0.74 FTE literacy support TA, and 3 administrative assistants.
- Wellness projects for all grades.
- French and Spanish are offered as second languages.
- Full-day everyday Kindergarten program.
- Supported Literacy program for students in need.
- Enrichment/Extended Language program for grades 1 – 3.
- I.S.E.E (Integrated Setting for Enrichment Education) programs for grades 4 – 8.
- Approximately 39% of the student body achieves First Class Honours, Honours, or Achievement by the year-end.
- CAPE sets targets for Provincial Achievement Test results that exceed provincial expectations.
- CAPE has a daywear uniform and separate physical education wear.
- No busing services (the transportation grant is transferred to parents).

## TESTIMONIALS

"The staff at CAPE School is very caring and helpful. They always ensure that our children receive a good education and full attention due in part to the small class size."

-Parvin, Parent (grade 1-8)

"We like CAPE because of how it caters to every child's individual needs."

-Rebecca, Parent (Kindergarten)

"I was unhappy with my children's progress in math while attending a (different) public school. At CAPE that problem was solved and we got so much more than expected."

-Christa, Board Member and Former Parent

"Coming from a unique view from multiple perspectives, I can honestly say I am impressed with all facets of CAPE school. As a teacher, the small class sizes and freedom to teach the curriculum in innovative ways simplifies my job, while keeping it challenging. As a parent, I feel good knowing that my child is treated as an individual with a voice, who is challenged to achieve new levels. CAPE has been a fantastic experience for both my son and myself."

-Mike, Finance Committee, Teacher/Board Staff Rep, and Parent

"CAPE taught me the skills that I need to achieve both academically and personally. CAPE's emphasis on these skills, such as good study habits and organization, has helped me greatly throughout my high school and post secondary education."

-Nadia, Former Student

"The encouraging work environment and enthusiastic teachers in CAPE School made my experience very positive and helped me develop good work ethics and skills that I still employ today."

-Chelsea, Former Student (grade 7-9)

"CAPE was beneficial to me because it taught me study skills and to expect more of myself."

-Jeanae, Former Student

"At CAPE I discovered my passion for art."

-Anthony, Former Student

"CAPE Rocks!"

-Robert, Former Student

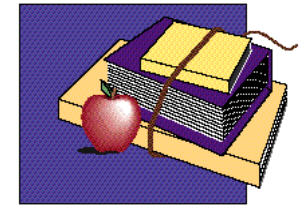
## WHAT ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS?

**Charter Schools are public schools.** They are designed and operated by educators, parents, community leaders, educational entrepreneurs, and others, to **provide a choice within public education.** Public Charter Schools cater to a particular target group, via a program designed to address the needs of that group. In their creation, Public Charter schools are held academically accountable by outlining their academic goals in their charter. In order for their charter to be granted by the Minister of Education, those educational goals must be determined by Alberta Education to be sound and rigorous, and supported by a program that is "unique" in its design. In order for their charter to be sustained and renewed, Public Charter Schools must continually meet or exceed the goals set forth in their Charter.

Charter schools follow mandated Alberta Curricula and are staffed by certificated teachers. They are operated by a Board of Directors, which are comprised of community members and parents of students enrolled at the school. Public Charter Schools have fully operating parent councils, and are guided by Superintendents. They must and do operate lawfully and responsibly, with the highest regard for excellence. Public Charter Schools develop Education Plans and submit annual Education Reports, as all other public schools do.

# CAPE

Centre for Academic and Personal  
Excellence



## **A Public Charter School**

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## CAPE'S CHARTER

### PHILOSOPHY AND BELIEFS:

Alberta Education, through legislation and policies, specifies that every student is entitled to have access to an educational program appropriate to the student's needs, age, and level of educational achievement.

**At CAPE, we believe students wish for, need, and deserve an affordable, supportive, equitable, responsive, and accessible educational environment within which to grow and develop personal and academic skills, which will lead to active world citizenship.**

Alberta Education, through legislation and policies, requires that students have access to the most enabling learning environment that meets their needs.

**At CAPE, we believe students, for a variety of reasons, are sometimes not able to achieve their academic and personal best within other, locally available standard educational programs.**

Alberta Education, through legislation and policies, recognizes that some students may require a program that is adapted to those particular needs.

**At CAPE, we believe students, when placed in an appropriate environment, have the potential of becoming successful students and life-long learners.**

Alberta Education, through legislation and policies, specifies that a Board may offer an education program that uses a particular teaching philosophy.

**At CAPE, we believe administrators, teachers, parents, and students are partners in the academic and personal development of the student.**

Alberta Education, through legislation and policies, recommends that each student whose program has been adapted in order to meet that student's needs have an Individualized Program Plan (IPP).

**At CAPE, we believe each student presents with particular academic and personal needs because of different cognitive, emotional, and social developmental rates; and students wish for, need, and deserve an individualized, flexible, and innovative program, which will lead to success in academic pursuits.**

Alberta Education, through legislation and policies, specifies that the Minister may establish a charter school if the program to be offered by the school will potentially improve the learning of students;

**At CAPE, we believe the community at large has a role to play in the academic and personal development of the student, and students have the right to become involved in an educational program of choice.**

### GOALS:

#### 1. to foster academic (personal) excellence

-through integrated learning units (projects) & extension of this integration into the core subjects  
-through individualized flexible programs

#### 2. to foster personal excellence

-through a counseling approach to discipline & democratic problem solving within classroom meetings  
-through Wellness projects  
-classroom meetings

### PURPOSE:

The mandate of CAPE is to provide an individualized, integrated program for Kindergarten to Grade 9 students who are intellectually capable underachievers.

CAPE's kindergarten is a voluntary pre-school educational program offered to eligible children. The kindergarten program at CAPE emphasizes a developmental process that encourages students to grow intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally at a rate that respects the potential of each individual child.

### OUTCOMES:

#### Academic Excellence

- Student learning is improved so that students are working at their own personal best;
- Student progress shows above average growth;
- Students become well-rounded individuals with a broad knowledge base;
- Students have a greater awareness of the world around them through exposure to other cultures, ideas, and beliefs.

#### Personal Excellence

- Students have acquired personal and interpersonal skills so that they may become productive citizens of the world and life-long learners;
- Students learn the importance of caring for others, learn respect for others, and treat others fairly.

## CAPE'S UNIQUENESS

- High passing averages: 80% Grades 1-3: 65% Grades 4-8.

- Integrated learning units.

- High technology integration (computers available in all grades). One computer per student in grades 6 – 8 and the I.S.E.E program. Keyboarding units in grades 1 – 3.

- French and Spanish as a second language.

- I.S.E.E. (Integrated Setting for Enrichment Education) programs for grades 4 – 8.

- Small remedial study groups and enrichment programs for language arts and mathematics.

- Wellness projects with fitness and nutrition programs.

- Art, drama, and music consultants.

- Development of citizenry and social skills.

- Counseling approach to discipline, which emphasizes problem solving, responsibility for personal actions, and promotes behavioral changes.

- Low student-teacher ratios.

- Extensive use of para-professionals (full-time aides in Kindergarten – grade 5).

- High community and parental involvement.

## A BRIEF HISTORY of CAPE

- Began operating in September 1994 as a private school.

- Granted a CHARTER by MHSD No. 76 in June 1995, becoming one of the first three Public Charter Schools in Alberta.

- CAPE was monitored and a report was submitted to Alberta Education in June 1996 and 1997.

- CAPE was fully evaluated by a 2-member Alberta Education team in April 1998.

- CAPE's CHARTER was renewed for a 3 year term by the Minister of Education in June 1998.

- CAPE was monitored by Alberta Education personnel from September 1998 to June 2001, and the related reports were filed.

- CAPE was evaluated by a 5-member Alberta Education team in April 1999.

- CAPE underwent an external evaluation in October 2000 and a report was filed with Alberta Education.

- A 5-year CHARTER was granted in May 2001.

- CAPE moved to its new school site in September 2001 (the former St. Louis School in the flats).

- An external evaluation was conducted in February 2004.

- A 5-year CHARTER was granted in February 2006.