



THE BOOKER SCHOOL

WHO WE ARE

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Mission

The Booker School is a place that engages students in the 'wonderful' of learning. Our mission is to nurture young people to realize their full potential – whatever that may be.



Our Guiding Statements

The Booker School is an independent, non-profit, non-denominational Pre K – 8 school founded by parents in 2012.

Built on integrity and respect, the Booker is a place that engages students with a creative and challenging academic curriculum that emphasizes inquiry-based learning with further emphasis on character development, service and global awareness.

We are the first school in the Maritimes to commit to becoming an International Baccalaureate World School for the early years programs and are currently in the consideration phase of the IB's accreditation process. Our school also commits to build an accessible, inclusive community resource that provides extra-curricular development for young and old.

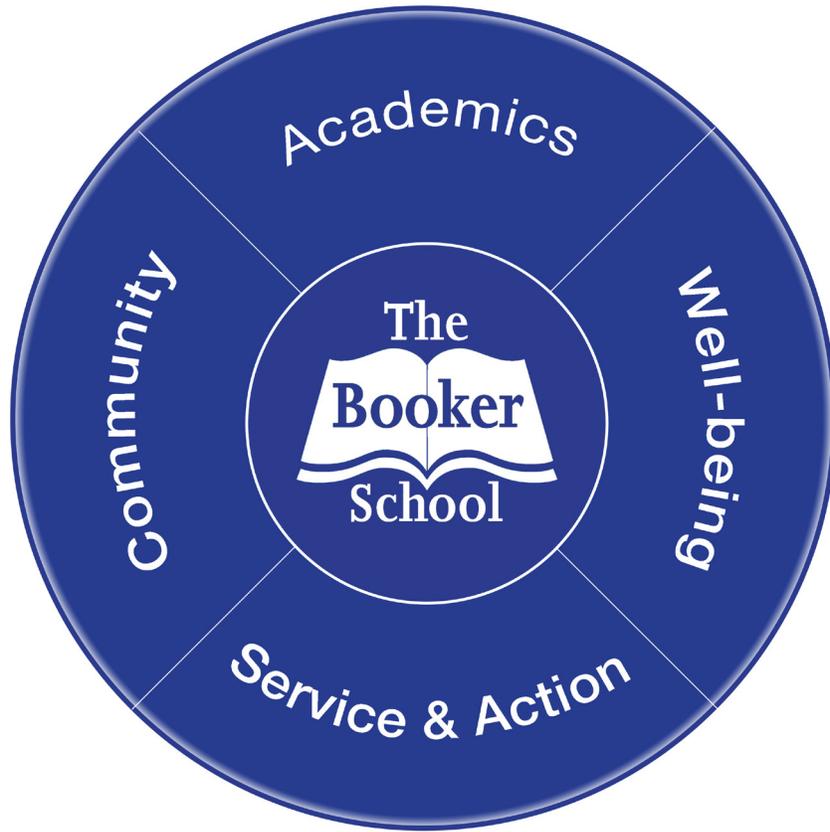


Our Vision

To build a learning center that is a good citizen. To make it a place that celebrates lifelong learning through the International Baccalaureate program. Give it the flexibility to accommodate more or fewer students as needs change. Make it so children and adults have a wide range of learning resources yet still feel like they belong to a small, caring community. Keep it safe so all students can flourish and reach their potential. Connect it through technology with the rest of the world to prepare all learners to take their place in the rapidly changing global society they will inherit.

Our Motto

Think ... Act... *Become.*

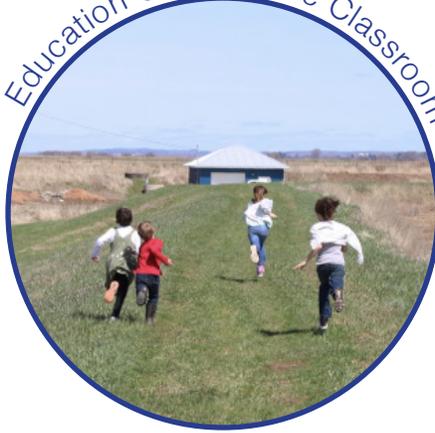


Academics

Inquiry & Concept Based



Education Outside The Classroom



Experiential Learning



Transdisciplinary



Technology As A Tool



Individualised



French As An Additional Language



Life Skills



Inquiry & Concept Based Education

Our educational program is focused upon the philosophies of inquiry and concept based learning. By teaching students the skills of inquiry and delivering a curriculum that is significant, meaningful, engaging and relevant, our program develops a love of life-long learning. Our program follows an inquiry model that starts by identifying a students' previous knowledge and then provokes the students into questioning and exploring the world around them.

Experiential Learning

We believe that for students to be engaged and for them to gain a true understanding of curriculum content, providing experiential learning opportunities is crucial. Giving students the chance to explore the world around them with real-life contextual experiences provides meaningful opportunities & connections. Being active in the learning process has a greater lasting effect and we encourage students to be active learners.

Education Outside The Classroom

Taking learning beyond the four walls of the classroom demonstrates to students that what they are learning has a purpose. We use the natural outdoor environment on campus as well as local resources to enrich and embellish our program. We head outside throughout the year, to add depth to the academic and social aspects of our program.

Transdisciplinary Program Of Inquiry

Our educational program is built upon transdisciplinary units of inquiry. This means that multiple subjects are taught around one central idea, allowing students to experience learning in a real-life context where skills and knowledge in different disciplines are required. Within a session in the classroom, students use a range of subjects, such as Math, Science, Social Studies, and Literacy, to further their learning and understanding of the central idea. This is supported by regular 'stand-alone' lessons in the schedule to develop core skills.

Individualised Learning

We recognise that every student develops at different speeds and each student has different needs and skills. In our small classes, we are able to provide individualised learning to ensure every student gets what they need to succeed. While we have grade level expectations, we know that a student may be working above grade level in one area, but could also need support in another. With flexibility in the curriculum, we can ensure every student is challenged and supported to find growth throughout the year.

Technology As A Tool

Technology is developing at a faster rate than ever, and is integrated into modern society in ways that were previously unimaginable. We balance the use of technology as a tool at The Booker School to support the students' academic growth. Students may also use technology to be creative and to communicate. Throughout the school, the use of technology is purposeful, safe, and intentional. We currently utilise iPads, Chromebooks, and other various hardware and software to enrich the academic program.

French As An Additional Language

As The Booker School is in a bilingual country and located in an area with Acadian roots, we offer French as an additional language of instruction. All students receive French instruction from Pre-Kindergarten through to Grade 8. In order to be meaningful and authentic for the students, it is mostly linked to the transdisciplinary units of inquiry. This develops a better understanding of purpose and significance for the students. The delivery of French is also supported by more standalone lessons where grammar, vocabulary and skills help build a foundational understanding of the language. It is recognised that some families may have alternative first and second languages at home.

Life Skills

From self-management, to cooking and budgeting, our program incorporates the learning of life skills. Within our educational program, students learn skills that will help them throughout life to aid them in reaching their full potential. Students are empowered to take increasing levels of responsibility throughout the year and during their time in our program. Teachers provide opportunities for students to take risks, solve problems, and develop skills for personal growth.

Social & Emotional Well-being

Mindfulness



Social Skills



Health Education



Mindfulness

Mindfulness is integrated into our routines, our policies and our daily lives at The Booker School. We strive to help children develop skills not to avoid stress, but to be able to build resilience and deal with stress and anxiety. We teach and model strategies for approaching conflict and moments of tension in our lives. By taking the time in our daily routine to focus on personal well-being, we build the culture in our school to support and challenge each other in positive ways.

Social Skills

A child's sphere of awareness expands quickly through their time in school. As they grow, they become increasingly aware of others, the impact they have on others and the impact others have on them. We make time to explore relationships through our curriculum at every age level and to develop skills that will help students navigate current and future relationships.

Health Education

We believe in the importance of developing a healthy body to support student growth and wellness. This includes practices for maintaining a healthy mind and body with physical activity, the food we eat, and the choices we make. We have a personal, social & health education element to our program that focuses on helping the students develop as they go through our school.

Service & Action

Empowerment



Responsibility



Agency



Empowerment

Students at The Booker School are empowered to have a say in their learning and their environment by participating in practices such as the creation of Essential Agreements. These practices allow the students to have a voice in determining the type of learning environment in which they can support and challenge each other to learn best.

Responsibility

We provide opportunities for students to develop a greater sense of responsibility towards themselves, each other, the community and the environment. By challenging our students and giving them the responsibility to make choices and take action, students develop a greater sense of ownership and pride in what they do.

Agency

We believe that students should have an active role in their self-development as they go through school. Students with agency use their own initiative, take responsibility and have voice and choice in their learning. Embracing and developing agency supports the goal of becoming life-long learners. Through our program, students are encouraged to embrace their agency, take action upon their learning, and contribute to society.

Community



Parent-Child-School Collaboration

When families enrol their child in The Booker School, we ask them to sign our Essential Agreements. We build relationship between school and home as we all strive for the same goal, to help the students reach their full potential. We use a digital portfolio to communicate with parents regularly, have conferences and report cards throughout the year, and invite parents into our classrooms to participate in learning experiences to engage the parents in the learning experience.

The Local Community

There are numerous opportunities throughout the year for our children and their families to engage with the local community. We utilise our small class sizes and what our local community can offer to enrich the educational program. We encourage the people in our local community to engage with school and its initiatives, demonstrating the benefits that can come from a symbiotic relationship. One such partnership is with L'Arche Homefires in Wolfville, where our students coordinate regular activities with their members and build relationships throughout the year.

The Global Community

International-mindedness is a core element of our program, and as such we integrate global perspectives into our curriculum. We utilize technology to connect with the global community and expand the opportunities for learning and sharing.