

# Education *with* Love





Junior Primary, also known as Pre-Primary or Pre-Kindergarten, is a program specifically designed to meet the early education needs of four-year-old children. It is the first step in a transition from home-care or day-care to a more formal school structure through play-based, developmentally appropriate activities within a school setting. Sacred Heart's JP program has existed since 2005, and is renowned for preparing boys and girls for Primary and beyond. Here, play is encouraged yet purposeful, and structured learning is enriching, exciting, and fun. Our children love coming to school!

Read on to find out why our JP Program would be an excellent choice for you and your child.





1

Our highly skilled **early childhood educators** - all of whom have Level 3 certification - are intentional in their approach, which is a balance between child-centered and teacher-directed learning. These educators, who together have more than 65 years of experience, nurture the best in your child, while laying the foundation for intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and social growth.

2

Our **small class sizes** mean individual attention for your child. With one educator for every eight children, you can be sure that the teacher gets to know each child and understands their unique skills and needs. We plan each day around ways to nurture your child's love of learning, but, more importantly, to ensure he or she feels loved and valued.



3

With specialists in **French, Music, and Physical Education**, we structure our Program to include short sessions in these areas to enhance your child's day and provide enriched learning opportunities. Our specialists work in tandem with our educators who participate alongside the children. Our JP children love learning to play percussion instruments, greeting a teacher in French, or trying out new games in the gym.

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"What a rich environment for younger children to explore, take learning risks and discover themselves and the world around them. The SHSH JP program fosters an environment of education grounded in character development, where the gifts and challenges each child brings becomes their greatest learning tool— for themselves and for others. There is simply no comparing this program to any other early childhood education program in Halifax."

- Katie Aven

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We have **options** to suit your family's needs. Your child can attend full time - 5 days per week - or part-time - two, three, or four days per week; you choose the days. The Junior Primary day runs from 9:00am - 3:00pm, although children are supervised as early as 8:00am. For a small additional fee they can be part of our After School Program (ASP) where they seamlessly transition from the end of the school day into a supervised play program until 5:30pm. ASP also offers day camps on Professional Development days, for one week of our School's two-week March Break, and after the academic year finishes, until the end of June.







5

JP children have **access** to all of our School's facilities, including the Little Theater where we enjoy and participate in a variety of performances, ceremonies and liturgies; the Library where we have author readings and enjoy story time with our Librarian in the children's nook; two gyms for Phys Ed and indoor play; a huge lunch room with a fully equipped kitchen where we have snack time twice a day and where we frequently bake together; a beautiful enclosed courtyard where we play among the trees and do our own gardening, nurturing a love for the natural world; and an awesome playground that includes a phenomenal play structure where safe risk-taking is encouraged, and with lots of room for running to and fro - the perfect space for exercising the imagination and expending lots of energy!





6

The JP Program is an important **part of Sacred Heart School of Halifax**, which is one of over 150 schools around the world in the Sacred Heart Network. Renowned for our commitment to the whole child - mind, body, and spirit - we educate to a strong moral code prescribed by our Five Goals:

- A personal and active faith in God
- A deep respect for intellectual values
- Social awareness that impels to action
- The building of community as a Christian value
- Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom

With a long history (we've been educating in Halifax since 1849!) and a special heritage that includes unique events such as Congé, a surprise day of play for the entire school, and beloved traditions to honour our founders, our JP students are immediately part of a much larger community. And because the JP's are in the heart of the School, they also get to be part of programs like Reading Buddies and Roots of Empathy, and they receive regular visits from our Senior School volunteers who love playing with and reading to our youngest students.





7

We believe strongly that **outdoor play** is crucial to the healthy development of young children. We play outdoors twice a day for at least 2 ½ hours, all year long (unless the weather is horrible!).

8

We provide **healthy snacks** daily and the children take responsibility for serving one another, developing independence and a sense of their own capabilities. For lunches, your child can bring meals from home or access the Parents' Guild Hot Lunch Program for a small fee.

9

Your JP tuition fees qualify as a **tax-deductible** child care expense.

10

Our **downtown location** is close to the Public Gardens, Museum of Natural History, Halifax Central Library, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, and Emera Oval and Commons Playground - places we love to explore and where we often take advantage of special programs.







Call us: 902-422-4459  
Visit us: 5820 Spring Garden Road, Halifax

 **SACRED HEART**  
SCHOOL *of* HALIFAX

