



Alexander Galt Regional High School

Concentration Programs 2024-25

Parent Handbook

Consider an AGRHS Concentration Program

Alexander Galt is proud to offer students the opportunity to select from a variety of optional enhanced concentration programs. While following the prescribed MEQ curriculum, students who apply and are accepted into a concentration program follow an adjusted subject-time allocation that permits them to have 7 blocks of “concentration” at Cycle 1 or 6 blocks of “concentration” at Cycle 2. We invite you to read through this handbook in order to best understand how these programs run, what commitments are involved, and what application process is required.

What to Expect Once You Apply:

- Application deadline: November 30, 2023
- Confirmation of application status no later than December 15, 2023 (provisional acceptance, provisional conditional acceptance, refusal, or waiting list).
- Program contract and supporting documents will be sent in the spring and are to be completed and returned as soon as possible.
- Course selection completed online (February-March) and would reflect concentrations provided all required documents have been returned.
- New students from outside of AGRHS must send a copy of their June report card by the end of June (*or immediately upon issue). Current AGRHS students do not need to submit a report card.
- Final placements are based on the final June results, both academic and behaviourally.
- Students on wait lists will be confirmed in August based on remaining availability in the program or on new availability resulting from incomplete files (ie. no contract received; incomplete payment, etc...)
- As with all programs and courses, the ability to run the program can only be done based on sufficient numbers. Similarly, adaptations or suspensions of any program may be required due to extenuating circumstances such as the global pandemic.

Your Concentration Application Checklist:

If a Concentration Program is of interest to you:

Ensure you have fully read the handbook and clearly understand all terms.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete the online application prior to November 30, 2023. <i>Applications are processed annually - returning students must reapply by the same deadlines. To fill in the application you will need to sign in to a google account, if you do not have a google account, use your ETSB student's account. If your student is not currently enrolled in ETSB and you do not have a google account, contact Drew Pollock at pollockd@etsb.qc.ca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Ensure you have uploaded all requested documents in the online application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Copy of 2022-2023 Final June Report Card ★ Copy of 2023 - 2024 Term 1 Report Card 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Specific program document requirements:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Portfolio for Art Concentration</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">One to three minute audition video for Performing Arts to agpac@edu.etsb.qc.ca .</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your File Completion Checklist Once Accepted into the Program:

Ensure the return of the fully completed and signed contract and all supporting documentation:

Concentration Contract 2024-2025	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full payment or financial plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure child has the mandatory uniform items (and purchase any optional items as desired)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Visual Art Concentration Program

“Art is not a thing, it is a Way”
 Elbert Hubbard

The Visual Arts Concentration offers an enriched and multi-leveled curriculum that allows each student to progress and thrive according to his or her individual needs and level. The program develops students’ artistic skills and knowledge, while enabling them to establish their unique identity as young artists. Students are encouraged to engage in reflective practices, as they develop a self-directed and independent approach to the art making process.

The program offers a strong foundation in drawing and painting, coupled with varied studio courses such as: sculpture, illustration, architecture, photography, and more. Learning is enhanced via museum and gallery visits, specialists’ studio workshops, exploration of potential art based careers, and visits to higher education art institutes. Each school year brings many new experiences and much growth, which is celebrated in a fabulous year end art exhibit, created and hosted by our students.

Science Concentration Program

(This program is only offered to cycle 1 students)

This project-based curriculum explores the same topics as a traditional science class, but through an intensive hands-on approach. Students go into greater depth in each topic as they apply what they are learning to a project that they can see, touch, and make decisions about.

This program is looking for students who are passionate about science and technology, who are hard working, detailed-oriented people and who have a heightened sense of curiosity about the world around them. Depending upon numbers, students may be grouped by Sec. 1 and Sec. 2 separately or may be grouped together in a multi-level grouping. The students will receive double the amount of science instruction, allowing for a more in depth exploration of the material and application of their understanding through exciting hands-on projects. This means more labs, more “doing”, more learning, and more fun!!

Performing Arts Concentration Program

The Performing Arts Concentration program offers an enriched and multilevel curriculum by combining theatre, dance, and music in an effort to provide a safe and open-minded environment to students who show a passion for and/or talent in these three disciplines. Through new and varied opportunities, our students will be inspired to achieve a common goal of excellence through the development of a cooperative creative process which will instill a sense of belonging. In return, such an environment will foster a sense of self-worth and confidence through performance achievements.

Throughout the year, students practice the performance and appreciation of different styles of dramatic works, dances, and music. These competencies are developed through a variety of lessons and projects that touch on theory and analysis, and the practical application of skills learned. Students have multiple opportunities to perform individually, in small groups, and as a collective group in front of peers and other audiences.

Hunting & Fishing Concentration Program

(This program is only offered to cycle 2 students.)

This concentration is one of the only programs of this kind in all High Schools across Quebec. It will take you on a fantastic journey through a multitude of hunting and fishing related activities and learning opportunities. It will deepen your knowledge of hunting and fishing while protecting and conserving wildlife, giving back to your community, and sharing with others. A ton of on and off campus activities awaits you!

Sports Concentration Program

In the sports concentration program, students will choose a specific sport (hockey, basketball or soccer) for terms 1 and term 2. Term 3 will be a multisport rotation where students will rotate through various activities straying away from their sport of choice. In this program we expect students to be engaged, work hard, improve fundamental skills, and game play within team concepts.

The sports concentration program creates an atmosphere where students are expected to balance academic and athletic life. The balance between academic growth, success and athletic improvement is a unique offering for our students at Alexander Galt.

If you are passionate about sports and want to improve your game, this program is for you.

Sports Études (partnership CSRS)

Students may opt to follow Sports Études under the umbrella of the Concentration Program. In general, the same rules and procedures explained below for the concentration program also apply to Sports Études. It is important to note that it is not possible for us to provide specific schedules aligned with Sports Études. Depending upon the practice schedule of the student, different scenarios may be applied:

- the student follows a regular program schedule and is not part of any concentration group
- the student follows a concentration program schedule and is part of a sports concentration class group

Under both scenarios, the following will apply:

- All Sports fees pertaining to Sports Études services outside of Alexander Galt are payable directly to the institution providing these services.
- Where students choose to also be part of an Alexander Galt Sports Concentration group, all Sports Concentration fees are applicable and payable to AGRHS.
- Where feasible, ETSB provides transportation between Galt and the practice facility and where this transportation results in additional costs (not part of a pre-existing route) these costs will be charged to parents.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to provide proof of acceptance into Sports Études as well as a practice schedule prior to August if they wish to request transportation services. Note: Transportation for Sports Études must be requested annually and is not guaranteed. It is advisable to plan for alternative travel arrangements in the event this service cannot be provided.
- The student may choose to purchase the uniforms worn by Concentration students.

- It is the student's responsibility to collect and to complete class work missed while absent from class.
- It is expected that the student will take advantage of the support provided during Academic Block, after school, and/or at lunch time through the department help centers.
- It is recommended that the parent(s) seek tutoring (outside of school) to support their child's academic growth given the student will miss classes.

In addition, where the student opts to follow a regular schedule:

- Where possible, the student may opt to participate in field trips/special activities with the concentration program at an additional expense. The costs of the specific activity are determined by dividing total costs by the number of participating students. Full payment is required prior to participating in the activity.

In addition, where the student opts to follow a concentration schedule:

- the relevant concentration fees and financial obligations will be applied (where there is a consistent practice schedule for Sports Études, impacting the number of concentration classes where the student will be present, this will be factored into the fees due - ie. if attending 2 of 6 classes, $\frac{1}{3}$ of relevant fees will be charged).
- The student is expected to remain and to participate with their concentration class during all concentration blocks where they are not at their practice facility for Sports Études.

STUDENT GUIDELINES

Commitment

Our expectation from the concentration student when he/she has accepted a spot in the program is:

To commit to:

- Remaining in the selected concentration for the year (no course changes)
- Strong academic effort and growth
- Positive attitude and behavior
- Respecting the financial deadlines
- Attend class on a regular basis
- Always give a 100% effort both in academics and program requirements
- Attending academic help and/or remediation when necessary

Our expectation from the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the concentration student when he/she has accepted a spot in the program is:

To commit to:

- Respecting that the commitment to the selected concentration program is for the full school year (no course changes)
- Supporting their child in their academic effort and growth

- Supporting and reinforcing the positive attitude and behavior of their child
- Respecting the financial deadlines
- Encouraging and supporting regular class attendance
- Positive collaboration with the school team
- Updating the school of any change in the contact information of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or medical information of their child

Our expectation from the staff providing concentration services is:

To commit to:

- Providing engaging and quality learning experiences that respect and enhance the MEQ curriculum
- Provide relevant and timely constructive feedback to the student to support growth
- Communicate concerns to the parent(s)/guardian(s) in a timely manner
- Refer to and provide access to timely academic help/remediation where necessary
- To maintain high expectations and the conditions under which students may achieve them

Course Selection

It is expected that students and parents take the course selection very seriously as this is what guides the organization of the resources allocated to the school. Where asked to indicate priorities of choices, there must be alternates selected. In the event that a group cannot run due to low numbers, the next priority is considered. The same rules applied to course changes across the school apply to concentration students. Where the student has received their choices, changes are not considered. Where a student has not provided a choice or alternate choices in priority, the school determines placement based on availability. Changes during the year are highly exceptional and only considered under teacher recommendation for reasons of particular concern, primarily the potential failure of the student.

Please note the following if a student chooses to be in a concentration:

CYCLE 1 Level 1 & 2 students attend 5 out of 6 social studies classes and 1 out of 2 ethics classes

CYCLE 2 Level 3 - concentration takes the place of the 4 block Option and students do not miss any other classes

CYCLE 2 Level 4 & 5 concentration takes the place of the 2 block option and students attend 5 out of 6 English classes and 1 out of 2 ethics classes

Academic Criteria

Academic structure and standards

The academic criteria for the program is the following:

- A student entering from Elementary School, should successfully complete their Grade 6 Competencies
- A student must demonstrate academic effort and growth throughout the school year
- A student should complete their present Grade Level without any failures
- A student with an average below 70% and/or a failure in any class may be conditionally accepted on probationary status



If at any time students are not meeting the academic standards, they may need to use their concentration blocks to catch up on their academic responsibilities.

Academic Support

Academic support for the student(s) is a measure that is put into place to help those who are on probationary status, are experiencing difficulty, or need temporary remedial help.

Academic help is recommended and required when one or more of the following situations occur:

1. A student feels that he/she needs additional explanation in a certain subject and has requested academic support.
2. A student is asked by his/her teacher to attend in order to gain further explanation or to catch up on assignments.
3. A student has a justified absence and requires time to catch up on material that he/she missed, or needs to write a test that was missed due to an absence.
4. A student is placed on academic probation due to academic failure or behavioral problems.

Academic/Behavior Referral Letter and Probation

Referral Letter:

A Referral letter will be sent home with your child, by the VP and/or Coordinator in the following cases:

1. He/she is not meeting the academic criteria
2. Consistent behavioral problems or major behavioral infractions
3. Not on time and consistently late
4. High absenteeism
5. Concern for the overall well-being and success of your child

**A student may be removed partially from concentration blocks for a period of time in order to address the specific concerns.*

Probation: (Removal of Concentration Blocks)

Probation could be applied when:

- **A student is not meeting the academic and/or behavior criteria**
- **Sent to PASS or receives 1 or multiple School Suspension(s)**

***A student will be removed partially or completely from concentration blocks for a period of time in order to address the specific concerns. Depending upon the circumstances that lead to probation, or the frequency and impact of the probationary interventions, a student could be fully removed from the program.*

Attendance

Attendance at school is critical since the teaching is condensed.

When students miss school unexpectedly (sick, etc.), the parents are expected to:

- **Phone the school to notify the absence of the student**

When students miss school unexpectedly (sick, etc.) the student is expected to:

- **Catch up on anything that was covered or work that was assigned in class during their absence**
- **To communicate with their teacher via email or check the google classroom for any assignments that they may have missed.**

Understandably, the first priority for students who are ill is recovering from their illness and so it is understood that students may not be able to complete work at that time. They will, however, need to take measures to complete all essential work once they are able and preparing to return to school. In exceptional circumstances, concentration blocks could be used to allow the student to catch up.

Students are required to be prepared for each class with:

- **Materials**
- **Equipment**
- **Uniform** (if required by the specific program)
- **A positive attitude and growth mindset!**

Medical Notes

As the school resources are organized around the courses selected during the course selection period, the commitment to the Concentration Program is for the full school year.

Students who encounter injury or illness resulting in medical notes restricting participation will in general be expected to remain with their group and thus benefit from the “theoretical” instruction even though they may not be able to participate at the practical level.

Reimbursement of fees based on medical notes is highly exceptional and for the most part will not be possible as the expenses of the program are locked in.

Financial Contract

Pricing for each Concentration

The following prices are approximate for each program. With budgets still under construction for the 2023-24 school year, we can commit that these will be a maximum and will not exceed the prices below. Please take note that uniforms and most field trips are not included.

Sports: Approximately \$175 - \$1100 - depending on sport(s) selected

Performing Arts: Approximately \$200

Visual Arts : Approximately \$150 - \$250 - depending on whether a new or returning student in the program

Science: Approximately \$150 - \$300

Hunting and Fishing: Approximately \$500 - \$600

The parent is responsible to:

- Meet the required deadlines for payments, including dates committed to in a payment plan

If the full balance is not paid prior to the first day of school:

- The student will be given a regular schedule that is not part of the concentration program

If the payment plan is not respected:

- The student will be removed and provided a regular schedule until the payment is made in full

Failure to respect the financial contract will result in an obligation to pay the full amount of all outstanding school debt as well as payment in full (without a payment plan) if the student is accepted into a Concentration Program in subsequent years.

UNIFORMS

All ordering of uniforms is completed by the parent directly with the supplier. Payment will be done directly with the supplier. Specific order information will be provided through the specific concentrations. More information to come.

The following are mandatory for each program:

Sports Concentration: 2 T-shirts, 2 shorts, Hoodie (*other items will be available but are optional*)

Soccer concentration: soccer socks

Basketball concentration: basketball reversible

Hockey: hockey jersey and socks

Performing Arts: 1 T-shirt **Other items will be available but are optional.*

Visual Arts: Hoodie

Science: 1 T-shirt ; Lab coat **optional*

Hunting & Fishing: No uniform necessary for the program

COMMUNICATION



- **Communication is a key factor to success**
- **The main way of communicating with you will be via email, phone, and/or the GPI/Mozaic parent portal**
- *Please make sure that all important contact information for parents/guardians is accurate*

Questions, Suggestions, Concerns, Clarifications – Who should you contact?

Questions regarding the program, guidelines, procedures, academics:
pollockd@etsb.qc.ca (Mr. Pollock – Vice-Principal – 819-563-0770 ext. 22004)

Questions related to finances and payment plans:
apostolakosc@etsb.qc.ca (Christina Rousseau – Finances - 819-563-0770 ext. 22056)

Questions specific to:

Sports Concentration Program:
Nancy Dubeau – dubeaun@edu.etsb.qc.ca

Science Concentration Program:
Jonah Fogg - foggj@edu.etsb.qc.ca

Visual Art Concentration Program:
Nancy Blampied - blampiedn@edu.etsb.qc.ca

Performing Arts Concentration Program:
Lynsey Sylvester - sylvesterl@edu.etsb.qc.ca

Hunting and Fishing Concentration Program
René Gauthier: gauthierr@edu.etsb.qc.ca

The Administration

Vice Principal Cycle 1 – Mr. Drew Pollock
819-563-0770, ext. 22004
pollockd@etsb.qc.ca

Vice-Principal MAPs/WOTP - Mr. Marc Ghilarducci
ghilarduccim@edu.etsb.qc.ca
819-563-0770, ext. 22006

Principal - Mrs. Peggy McCourt
819-563-0770, ext. 22001
mccourtp@etsb.qc.ca