



# Alexander Galt Regional High School

## Concentration Programs 2025-2026

### 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: December 13, 2024.
- Confirmation of application status starting in January 2025 (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 <a href="#">online application</a> prior to December 13, 2024. <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 Kohl Kelso at <a href="mailto:KelsoK@etsb.qc.ca">KelsoK@etsb.qc.ca</a></i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ensure you have uploaded all requested documents in the online application:<br>★ Copy of 2023-2024 Final June Report Card<br>★ Copy of 2024 - 2025 First Communication / Term 1 Report Card   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Specific program document requirements:<br>Portfolio for Art Concentration<br>One to three minute audition video for Performing Arts to <a href="mailto:agpac@edu.etsb.qc.ca">agpac@edu.etsb.qc.ca</a> .  | <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 2025-2026  | <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, 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. The objective of the hunting and fishing program is to foster a love of the outdoors while expanding students' understanding of the natural world around them. The program will have an emphasis on skills such as perseverance, teamwork, independence, rigor, creativity, and problem solving. These skills are all beneficial in the outdoors, but they will also serve students well in other classes and in daily life. Each student will relate to the outdoors differently, and this program is intended to build unique relationships to nature and understand how we co-exist with the flora and fauna around us.

Safety is the number one priority of the program. With the guidance of a teacher, students will test their hunting and fishing skills outdoors. Examples of these skills might include: basic archery, fileting a trout, and fire making. These activities are intended to take place across the seasons and in different locations surrounding Alexander Galt. Trips will be conducted off campus in order to hone these skills in the wilderness.

## **Sports Concentration Program**

The sports concentration program is a unique program that allows students to choose a specific sport(s): hockey, basketball or soccer for TERM 1 and TERM 2. For TERM 3 - students will go through a multisport rotation allowing them to stray away from their sport of choice. No matter what sport is chosen, students will be engaged, work hard, improve fundamental skills and game play.

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

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

## **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)
- 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.

### **Pricing for each Concentration**

The following prices are approximate for each program. With budgets still under construction for the 2024-25 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 - \$1150 - 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:** Recommended 2 T-shirts, 2 shorts, and the sports concentration hoodie (*other items will be available but are optional*)

*Ordering online is made easy with our partnership with TORO GRAPHIX*

**SOCCER** - soccer cleats, indoor athletic shoes, shin pads & navy blue soccer socks

**BASKETBALL** - basketball shoes or proper athletic shoes

**HOCKEY** - students must provide their own hockey equipment and student will need to order hockey jersey and socks through Mr.Fisk

**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:  
[KelsoK@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:KelsoK@etsb.qc.ca) (Mr. Kelso – Vice-Principal – 819-563-0770 ext. 22005)

Questions related to finances and payment plans:  
[GeorgeK@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:GeorgeK@etsb.qc.ca) (Kylie George – Finances - 819-563-0770 ext. 22056)

Questions specific to:

**Sports Concentration:** Nancy Dubeau – [dubeaun@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:dubeaun@edu.etsb.qc.ca)

**Science Concentration:** Jonah Fogg - [foggj@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:foggj@edu.etsb.qc.ca)

**Visual Art Concentration:** Nancy Blampied - [blampiedn@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:blampiedn@edu.etsb.qc.ca)

**Performing Arts Concentration:** Lynsey Sylvester - [sylvesterl@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:sylvesterl@edu.etsb.qc.ca)

**Hunting and Fishing Concentration:** Haydn Juby: [jubyh@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:jubyh@edu.etsb.qc.ca)

## The Administration

Vice-Principal, Cycle 1 & MAPs – Mr. Marc Ghilarducci  
819-563-0770, ext. 22004  
[GhilarducciM@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:GhilarducciM@etsb.qc.ca)

**Vice-Principal, Cycle 2 & WOTP - Mr. Kohl Kelso**  
**819-563-0770, ext. 22005**  
[KelsoK@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:KelsoK@etsb.qc.ca)

**Principal - Mrs. Peggy McCourt**  
**819-563-0770, ext. 22001**  
[McCourtP@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:McCourtP@etsb.qc.ca)