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ALPHA II Alternative School

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WEBSITE: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/alpha2/>

GRADE RANGE: 7 to 12

Interesting Feature

Consensus Model

Students engage in every facet of decision making at Alpha II. This includes helping to develop school rules and plans. Your voice is essential and needed for the growing and expression of our community.

At our school's monthly community Meetings, every one of Alpha II's community members has a voice – the students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

Decisions are made by consensus and any conflicts that might arise are resolved by taking each person's point of view into consideration finding a time and place to do what each person values.

Free to Live ~ Free to Learn

A Student-directed School

You feel able to take full responsibility for your own learning. You seek a community that supports everyone to find their own way of learning and living. Welcome to Alpha II Alternative School a democratic community of self-directed learners who take responsibility for their own education. At Alpha II you direct your own learning based on what you value with the help of your core community.

Instead of grades and competitions, you keep a portfolio of your ideas and work based on what you value. What's key?--you learn how to express who you are in your own unique way and you share your learning experience with a supportive and vibrant community.

A Supportive Environment

At Alpha II we aim to create a welcoming learning environment centered on student passions and interests. It is cooperative, based on a consensus model, and community-supported. It is a democratic school focused on creativity, innovation and thoughtful problem-solving.

We encourage self-directed, community-minded young people from all communities in our city to be part of Alpha II. Often students who may be under-represented in other schools feel supported at Alpha II. Alpha II works to make our community one where diverse values, experiences, and cultures are both encouraged and nourished.

More Information about ALPHA II Alternative School

Manage your own time

You will learn to manage your own time and fulfill your own educational goals at Alpha II. This includes determining your own schedule and what you will be doing each day in collaboration with teachers, other students and parents. You learn to take responsibility for your time and for achieving your own goals.



Create, build, and learn the value of failure

You could be an artist, builder, writer, community activist, computer programmer, experimental scientist, musician, inventor, or game designer, to name just a few possibilities. Our mentors will help you find the right people to support your needs and help you work through the different phases of learning including boredom and failure.



Education as unique as you

Learn through your interests. You might make a film. Plan the budget and learn math. Learn to read and write by penning proposals and scripts. Learn science and technology by developing film or film editing. You choose your own educational path and learn along the way. And you can create opportunities to learn on your own or in collaboration with others.



Gain Confidence

Picture yourself with people who care about your ideas, energy, creativity, and enthusiasm. Share your ideas, learning, and interests in small groups, presentations, and meetings. Here at Alpha II, you learn to express yourself in a supportive atmosphere that will help you to build your confidence.



Additional Features

- Alternative School
- Based on Hall-Dennis Report
- Inspired by Summerhill School
- Welcomes community mentors
- Democratic Free School
- Empowers self direction
- Decisions based on consensus
- Supports diversity and difference

Student Life - Where You Belong

Be Part of a Community--

A major part of the learning experience at Alpha II is belonging to a strong, vibrant community of students, teachers, parents and administrators who support you and your gifts, talents, ideas, and energy. Learning what you love to do is also learning about what you have to give to your community and what your community has to offer you. The opportunity to experience and participate in a genuine community of learning is one of the most exceptional elements of being at Alpha II.



What Sets Us Apart

What Makes Our School Different--

Self-directed learning in community

- You decide what you will focus on and how you learn at Alpha II
- You belong to a community that values your uniqueness and supports you in your personal journey of learning with opportunities for collaboration, reflection, and feedback.

No grades, no credits, no diploma

- At Alpha II we value learning not credentials
- Instead of marks and credits, you build a portfolio of your accomplishments that reflects who you are and aspire to be and can be used in future pathways post Alpha II life,(i.e. Apprenticeship, Work, College, University and Community Living).



Parent and Community Engagement

The community includes your family

Parent involvement is essential at Alpha II. At our monthly community meetings, where parents, students and teachers and administrators meet, we collaborate to create a great learning environment for all. Parents are also invited to become mentors to our students to share their expertise in working with individual students. Parents are invited, and have the opportunity, to volunteer time to enrich the school's learning environment.

Over the years, we have had active parent mentors. Parents are an integral part of the development of Alpha II and are encouraged to bring their own passions to add to our school to support their child and other mentees



Imagine a TDSB school where all share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on exploring and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on students and their opportunities, every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

We strive to provide an atmosphere where students and their parents feel comfortable with the ability of the student to self-direct their learning in a community based on consensus decision-making for shared resources.

The importance of our parent community members was recognized by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education awarding one of the Alpha II co-founders with the 2020 Leaders & Legends Award for Innovation: https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/oise/News/2020/Meet_this_year_s_OISE_Leaders_and_Legends_Awards_winners.html. This award was presented for creating self-directed learning in communities based on consensus decision making.

Contact Information

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Tours of Alpha II for interested families are provided monthly by mentors and parents. To set up a tour for your family, call or email Alpha II.