



Avondale Elementary Alternative School
Avondale Public School



Michael Byrne, Principal

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2020-2021

Avondale Elementary Alternative Application

Unire: one puzzle, many pieces

2020-2021

Avondale Elementary Alternative Application

(Applications must be submitted annually for consideration in the following school year)

Welcome to Avondale Schools!

Avondale Elementary Alternative School is an integral co-founding partner in the Avondale Schools tri-school collective at 171 Avondale Avenue. The *Alternative Schools* have grown over a thirty-year period, emerging from the convictions of a small group of talented educators and parents, committed to establishing a unique and exciting educational alternative. *Avondale Elementary Alternative School* is a small school of approximately 140 students where size *really* matters. We practice a holistic approach to education that supports the cultivation of a close-knit family and community-oriented atmosphere where we all call each other by our first names. Our program is built upon high expectations in a teaching and learning environment made far richer through a model of collaborative inquiry. We believe that this holistic approach is a significant contributor to our students' academic, social and emotional development.

Admission Considerations

Successful *Avondale Elementary Alternative* students demonstrate and embrace the following values and characteristics:

- ✓ the desire to work cooperatively in a multi-age learning community
- ✓ demonstrated independence and self-direction (appropriate to her/his age)
- ✓ enthusiasm, resourcefulness, and engagement in their learning
- ✓ a demonstrated commitment to building respectful, authentic relationships
- ✓ the desire to contribute meaningfully to the *Avondale Schools* community
- ✓ a willingness to participate fully in out-of-classroom experiences

Application/Admission Process and timelines

Application and Admission Timelines

| | |
|------------------|---|
| October 2, 2019 | Application period opens |
| October 2, 2019 | Alternative Program Information Evening |
| January 31, 2020 | Application Period closes |
| May 2020 | Confirmation of 2020-2021 School Organization |
| May 2020 | All applicants will be notified, by email, of the status of their application |

Document Submission

The *applicant* will submit:

- a) the completed, signed and dated *Application Form*
- b) a copy of the most recent report card (not required for application to Junior Kindergarten)
- c) a written statement outlining the applicant's expectations and desire to be part of the Avondale Schools community (applies to grades 3 to 8)

Junior/Senior Kindergarten Admission

In line with the policies and operational procedures of the Toronto District School Board (PR 545, P.013 SCH) if more applications are received than there are spaces available first consideration for admission will be offered to siblings of students currently enrolled in Avondale Elementary Alternative School. Remaining offers of admission will be determined by lottery, supervised by the School Superintendent (if available), Principal, School Office Administrator and teaching staff.

Admission for Grades 1-8

Admission in grades 1-8 is based on space availability. If it is confirmed that vacancies occur in these grades applicants are offered the opportunity to visit the Avondale program for a period of 1-2 days. During this visit students will be immersed in our alternative, multi-age environment in a class appropriate to their age/present grade level. The program visit will conclude with a reflection on the visit: the applicant, her/his parent/guardian and the classroom teacher will each share their perceptions of the orientation visit in reference to the admission considerations listed on the previous page. All applications will be kept on file for the entire 2020-2021 school year. If additional spaces become available at any time parents will be notified by the school and their child offered the opportunity of a program visit.

Parent and Student Commitment

Given our small size, it is our expectation that parents will make every reasonable effort to commit time and energy to Avondale's school-wide programs (e.g. fund-raising events, classroom assistance, excursion volunteers, etc).

Students are expected to participate fully in a wide range of out-of-classroom experiences as these excursions are an essential component of *Avondale's* alternative educational model. It is hoped that parents can meet the average cost of \$600-800 per year for out-of-classroom excursions; subsidies are available for students in financial need. Parents are responsible for the transportation of their child to and from school.

*School Organization**

Elementary and middle-level classrooms are organized into multi-age/multi-grade groups. Specific grade groupings are determined in the Spring of each year.

Avondale School Day

Bell times

| | |
|------------|--|
| 8:45 a.m. | School entry |
| 8:45 a.m. | Beginning of morning instructional block |
| 10:00 a.m. | Primary Recess |
| 10:15 a.m. | end of Primary recess |
| 10:20 a.m. | Jr./Int. recess |
| 10:35 a.m. | end of Jr./Int. recess |
| 11:30 a.m. | Lunch |
| 12:30 p.m. | Beginning of afternoon instructional block |
| 1:45 p.m. | Primary Recess |
| 2:00 p.m. | end of Primary recess |
| 2:05 p.m. | Jr./Int. recess |
| 2:20 p.m. | end of Jr./Int. recess |
| 3:00 p.m. | FDK dismissal |
| 3:15 p.m. | Grades 1-8 dismissal |

Out-of-classroom Experiences

The JK to Grade 8 curriculum at *Avondale Elementary Alternative* incorporates both out-of-classroom learning experiences and workshops with professional artists and program instructors. Our objective is to extend our classrooms out into the world as we invite the world into our classrooms. These events are partially funded by the Board, but often require student payment. These experiences constitute an integral part of each child's program at this school, and teaching staff choose and evaluate them with respect to relevance to program initiatives and Ontario Curriculum expectations. The parent cost of all trips for the year may be expected to range from \$600-800/student.

*Lunch Program**

Elementary students eat at lunch tables in the cafeteria and/or other designated areas in a supervised lunch program between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. Children bring their lunch from home daily (peanut free), unless participating in one of the various fundraising lunch programs. Students play outside, unless the weather requires an indoor lunch period, please see TDSB PR 519. School rules and routines are to be observed both in the lunchroom and the playground/fields during play periods. Children in Grades 6 to 8 are afforded off campus privileges with parent consent.

*After-school Programs**

Traditionally, the *Avondale Schools' School Council* offers after-school activities on a pay per use basis. The fee for many of the programs is nominal so many of our parents both from the Alternative Elementary School and the Public School take advantage of this opportunity. In the past, a myriad of programs such as Mad Science, Sports, Design and Technology, Chess, and Crafts have been offered. In September 2018 Avondale Schools began implementation of the Extended Day Program through the TDSB Early Years Department. This program offers programming for students in FDK Year 1 – Grade 6 from 7:15 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Please visit the [TDSB Early Years webpage](#) to learn more about EDP.

For Further Information

Please call us at 416-395-3130 at anytime for further information. Visit our website at <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/avondale>.

Thank you for your interest in the Avondale Elementary Alternative program.

Admission to Avondale Elementary Alternative Program 2020-2021

(Applications must be submitted annually for consideration in the following school year)

_____/_____/_____
Student's Surname _____ Given Names _____ Date of Birth Y/M/D

Home Address _____ City _____ Postal code _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

Home telephone number _____ Business telephone number _____

Parent email address _____

(please ensure email is correct as the majority of our communication will be through email)

Student's Present School _____ Present Grade _____

Eligible Grade for the 2020-2021 school year.

Does a sibling attend Avondale Elementary Alternative School? Yes ___ No ___ if yes, name of sibling

Parent/Guardian, please share with us your rationale for exploring the Avondale Elementary Alternative Program for your child.

Please submit the following along with this application:

_____ A copy of Report Cards for the current or most recently completed academic year

This is an application only. Student's who are accepted to Avondale Elementary Alternative School must be registered through the office to secure their placement.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Notice of Collection

In accordance with Section 29(2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 1989, this is to advise you that the information you have provided is collected under the legal authority of the Education Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 314, as amended, its regulations and memoranda, and Sections 117, 118 and 119 of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 314, as amended, and may be used as necessary in the normal operation of the Board of Education and its constituent parts. Information would be released only under proper authorization.

