



Middle School Ball Academy Frequently Asked Questions



We are new to Catholic Schools, what differences will my student notice?

- We expect all students to participate in the Faith life of our school - morning prayer, Religious Studies classes, in school Masses and celebrations.
- All subjects permeate Faith into curriculum and provide a Catholic view.
- We are a Catholic school for all students.

Does my child have to attend St. Thomas to participate in the middle school ball academy?

- Yes – To participate in the academy, students will need to enroll at St. Thomas. The middle school ball academy is a program of choice within Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

Will bussing for my child be provided if I am not in the St. Thomas catchment area?

- Given this is program of choice, we will work to continue to provide bussing for out of catchment students within the City of Red Deer Schools Boundaries (this would include rural students bussed into Red Deer Schools).
- No transportation will be provided for students who live outside of Red Deer Schools Boundaries (Eg. Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Innisfail).
- Transportation fees for bussing will be determined based on the school of choice guidelines as outlined on our transportation webpage. <https://rdcrs.ca/schools/school-bus-information>

How many hours per week does an academy student spend training?

- Sport specific training will take place 1-2 times per week.
- Middle school students will be taught and assessed by the St. Joseph's Ball Academy staff.
- Students will Participate in the Ball Academy as a year long option.
- Depending on enrollment numbers students may participate during in the academy during two of their Physical education classes to make this work with our schedule (we will work to avoid but it will depend of registration and grade level participation).

How will students get to St. Joseph's?

- Students will be picked up at STA and transported to the Academy by Ball Academy staff.
- This will involve some of their recess and lunch time to maximize instructional time

What will the facility look like? What other facilities do you plan to access?

- Skill component will access the St. Joseph's FieldHouse (drop down batting cage, pitching machine, mounds), outside diamonds, other facilities (batting cages, "wellness studios" ex: Pilates for core conditioning).

What is the cost, registration and timelines?

- Academy Cost is \$750.00 / year.
- This is purely a cost recovery fee to cover the coaching that students will receive.

How do I enroll?

- Please fill out the middle school ball academy intent form that can be found at www.staschool.ca
- If your child is not currently enrolled with Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, you will need to call the school to set up an intake interview and complete the student registration form.
- A \$200 dollar deposit to secure a registration spot is required (payment made at St. Thomas) by April 30.

Student enrollment in these programs will determine viability and sustainability. A "go or no go" decision relative to this program and grades offered based on student enrollment will be made later this spring. This information will be shared with you as soon as possible.