



# PROGRAM GUIDE

*We turn passion into performance!*

## THE VIMY ADVANTAGE!

It remains a timeless adage: big things come in small packages. And once again its veracity is exemplified – in the form of Vimy Ridge Academy (VRA).

Recently recognized by “MacLean’s Magazine” as one of Canada’s top 40 schools, Vimy Ridge Academy offers unique and compelling sports, dance and outdoor pursuits programs within a thriving academic community in a small school environment.

Student achievement at VRA is equal to, and often superior to that of larger high schools. Fueled by closer interpersonal relationships with enthusiastic teachers and peers, a full complement of high school courses and a culture of academic excellence, VRA students receive the highest standard of education.

Hand in hand with academic excellence are a host of other opportunities to make student life fun and exciting. VRA has numerous high caliber athletic teams and clubs, including basketball, golf, soccer, volleyball, track and field, and wall-climbing. Teamed with these opportunities go the highly charged and fun-filled spirit-generating events that accompany sports and community service.

For more information on Vimy Ridge Academy, please do not hesitate to contact us at one of the following:

Phone: 780-465-5461  
 Fax: 780-469-1198  
 Website: [vimyridge.epsb.ca](http://vimyridge.epsb.ca)  
 Outside of Edmonton: 1-877-849-VIMY  
 Email: Darryl Sutherland, Principal at [Darryl.Sutherland@epsb.ca](mailto:Darryl.Sutherland@epsb.ca)

## ENTRANCE STANDARDS

Edmonton Public Schools operates under an open boundary system, allowing students to attend schools with alternative programming opportunities that best meet students’ needs and interests. Vimy Ridge Academy is a unique school that only offers alternative programs of choice.

Before you register, we recommend that you call our office at 780-465-5461 to arrange a school visit, a tour or to participate in a shadow day. This will give both you and your child an opportunity to see our school, meet some of the staff, and get a feel for the programming options we provide. All new applicants must meet our minimum educational pre-requisites (a mark of 50% or higher in each of the four core subjects) for entrance into junior and senior high (Grades 7-12).

All students interested in attending VRA are asked to apply through our school office. The registration process involves three steps:

**STEP 1:** Contact the program director for your program of choice. You will then be asked to submit an application package complete with recent progress reports.

**STEP 2:** Each program will perform an interview/audition of the applicant, review all completed application packages to confirm that the student has met all requirements for entrance and ensure that there is space available at the applicant’s grade level.

**STEP 3:** Each applicant will be notified confirming acceptance into their program of choice and the school, assuming all entrance requirements have been met.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Our modified school calendar varies start times and vacation breaks and is based on strategies to improve student achievement and attendance.

The modified calendar divides the school year into four equal periods. Instruction occurs for 8-10 weeks followed by a break. Using the modified calendar, students will return to school during the third week of August each year. There is a one-week fall break during October and a two-week spring break in late March-early April. All other dates follow the regular Edmonton Public Schools calendar.

## SHADOW DAY

Programming at VRA is second to none. Many of the opportunities available to our students are unique to our school. Starting in January we encourage students that are interested in our programming to schedule a Shadow Day at the school. Come visit us for a day and learn first-hand what it means to be a student at VRA.

To be involved in a Shadow Day, all you need to do is call one of the following numbers and set up the day that works best for you and we will take care of the rest.

**Hockey, Lacrosse, Sports Rec Programs**  
 Ryan Marsh: 780-465-5461, extension 181

**Green and Gold Soccer Academy**  
 Kurt Bosch: 780-465-5461, extension 192

**Edmonton School of Ballet**  
 Margaret Flynn: 780-440-2100

**Outdoor Pursuits Program**  
 Georg Arndt: 780-465-5461, extension 303

**Elite Athlete Program**  
 Rick Ramsay: 780-465-5461, extension 318

# ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS...

At Edmonton Public Schools, choice is the foundation of our district's approach to education. Edmonton Public Schools is recognized internationally for offering curriculum in ways that complement the unique backgrounds and talents of our students. Vimy Ridge Academy is a district designated site for seven distinct programs: Outdoor Pursuits, Dance, Elite Athlete, Sports Rec, Soccer, Hockey, and Lacrosse. Each program offers its students a unique opportunity to turn their activity based passion into academic performance.

## OUTDOOR PURSUITS PROGRAM

The Outdoor Pursuits program is dedicated to promoting citizenship, and leadership. All students in the Outdoor Pursuits program wear their formal program apparel on Thursdays, and adhere to high standards of conduct, behaviour and deportment. High academic performance is balanced with alternative programming opportunities in outdoor pursuits, music (pipes and drums), drill class and wall climbing on a competition sized climbing wall. Winter and summer camping experiences are an expectation of all students in Grades 7-12 of the Outdoor Pursuits program.

**For more information, contact Georg Arndt, our Outdoor Pursuits Program Director at [georg.arndt@epsb.ca](mailto:georg.arndt@epsb.ca).**

JUNIOR HIGH Outdoor Pursuits Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
English/Social	English/Social
Math/Science	Math/Science
French or Spanish	
Lunch	Lunch
Outdoor Ed.	Phys. Ed.
Military History	Drill

GRADE 10 Outdoor Pursuits Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Drill	Option
Pursuits	English
Social	Option
Lunch	Lunch
Math	Phys. Ed.
Option	Science

## DANCE PROGRAM

Our Dance program is offered in partnership with the Edmonton School of Ballet Society in a beautiful, architecturally designed area located on Vimy Ridge Academy's second and third floors. There are eight large studios, all composed of sprung wood floors covered with dance floor matting, and equipped with barres and mirrors. All dance instructors are highly qualified in their specific area of expertise. Our students get exceptional dance instruction with amazing results.

Students attend academic classes during part of the day, and spend the remainder of the day working with highly qualified dance instructors. This combination results in a balanced approach to dance instruction and academic success. Admission to the Dance program is by audition only, with auditions being held in the spring. Students are selected based on their physical ability, potential, and interest. Dancers are grouped by level of ability, allowing for the most effective instruction possible.

### Classical Program

Discover the classics of dance with an emphasis on Classical Ballet, Pointe, Pas de Deux and Classical Repertoire with additional training in Modern and Jazz.

### Contemporary Program

At the Intermediate level, students may choose to have a stronger emphasis on Modern and Jazz, but will maintain consistent Ballet training.

### Teacher Training Program

Students in the Dance program can prepare for the teacher training course offered to post-secondary students by the Edmonton School of Ballet Society. This three year course covers advanced teacher training, including syllabi, pedagogy and child development focused curriculum.

Our affiliations with the Edmonton School of Ballet Society, Edmonton Festival Ballet and the Edmonton Contemporary Dancers allow us to feature our students in several local and provincial performances.

Participation in our Dance program provides students with increased opportunity to gain entry into international ballet companies. Many dancers from the Edmonton School of Ballet Society have gone on to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, Les Ballet Jazz, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks and many other companies.



### Tuition Fees

Additional student fees may be charged to cover administration, pianists' salaries, costuming, choreography, Alberta Dance Festival Group Entry Fees, etc. Bursaries are available and may be applied for through our professional Dance program office.

### JUNIOR HIGH Dance Sample Timetable

Semester 1	Semester 2
English/Social	English/Social
Math/Science	Math/Science
French or Spanish	
Lunch	Lunch
Dance	Dance
Dance	Dance

### GRADE 10 Dance Sample Timetable

Semester 1	Semester 2
English	Social
Math	Science
Option	Option
Lunch	Lunch
Dance	Dance
Dance	Dance

## ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAM

Vimy Ridge Academy offers extra assistance for elite student-athletes who are provincial, national or international caliber in their chosen sport. Accommodations are provided by modifying a student's timetable or assignment schedule to avoid conflict with their training or competition timelines.

Care and prevention of athletic injuries and rehabilitative programs are assessed through our Fitness Centre and from our athletic therapist. Nutritional concerns are also addressed, and individual programs are designed in consultation with experts in the fitness and nutritional fields.

We currently provide flexible programming for elite athletes of the following sports:

- Diving
- Figure Skating
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Squash
- Swimming
- Tennis

**For more information, please contact Rick Ramsay our sports program assistant principal at 780-465-5461, extension 318.**



# ...“turning passion into performance!”

## SPORTS REC PROGRAM

The philosophy of this program is to introduce students to a variety of activities that they otherwise may not have had the opportunity to experience. Some examples of the off campus activities that students will participate in: Brazilian Jujitsu, Aquafit, Yoga, Tae Kwon Doe, Archery, Kayaking, Cycling and Beach Volleyball. The class occurs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon with each activity lasting approximately 2 weeks. There is a skill component to this program. However, the majority of the focus is to experience life long activities that students can engage in no matter what their ability. The Sports Rec program is designed for enjoyment and participation. There will be some classroom based instruction that will occur in conjunction with some of the activities. Due to the extra costs incurred for off campus facility fees and transportation, there is an additional program fee attached to this program.

**For more information, contact Scott Gillespie at 780-465-5461, extension 213.**

## SOCCER ACADEMY

The University of Alberta's Green and Gold Soccer Academy offers an ideal educational environment for students in Grades 7 through Grade 12 who are looking to balance the demands of an academic program with their passion for soccer. For three afternoons each week, students work with high level coaches to improve their soccer skills. Coaches work within a framework of holistic education and develop the student's tactical, technical, mental and psychological understanding of fitness and sport.

**For more information on this program, visit the Soccer Academy website at [www.greenandgoldsoccer.com](http://www.greenandgoldsoccer.com) and complete the application form and/or call Kurt Bosch at 780-465-5461, extension 192.**

JUNIOR HIGH Soccer Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
English/Social	English/Social
Math/Science	Math/Science
French or Spanish	
Lunch	Lunch
Soccer	Soccer
Soccer/Option	Soccer/Option

GRADE 10 Soccer Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
English	Social
Math	Science
Option	Option
Lunch	Lunch
Soccer	Soccer
Soccer/Option	Soccer/Option

## THE HOCKEY PROGRAM

Our Hockey Program is designed for boys and girls in Grades 7 through 12 and provides students with the opportunity to advance their hockey skills and knowledge of the game. Our program helps student athletes attain the physical, mental, and emotional skills necessary to enhance their game playing experience.

Students in this program make use of flexible scheduling to balance their academic programming with access to high level coaches and instructors working to improve their hockey skills.

The program has been designed to help students develop the playing and teamwork skills needed to succeed at a competitive level. On average, students receive between 1.5 to 4.5 hours of on-ice instruction per week. For players participating at the “AAA” or junior levels, ice time is adjusted to maximize their performance. Please also ask us about our very successful high school Junior Prep Program which accelerates high school programming for the gifted hockey players pursuing major junior or University hockey.

To ensure the strength of the academic-athletic connection, our Hockey Program directors work full-time in the school and in cooperation with teaching staff. This partnership guarantees a balanced academic and sport experience.

Students have access to fitness facilities in both Vimy Ridge Academy and Donnan School. The Donnan fitness facility includes a skating treadmill and is used by students from both campuses.

**Applications for the The Hockey Program will be received during the months of February through April. The application form is available by contacting our office at 780-465-5461 or by visiting our program website at [www.thehockeyprogram.com](http://www.thehockeyprogram.com).**

JUNIOR HIGH Hockey Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
English/Social	English/Social
Math/Science	Math/Science
French or Spanish	
Lunch	Lunch
Hockey	Hockey
Hockey	Hockey

GRADE 10 Hockey Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Hockey	Hockey
English	Social
Option	Option
Lunch	Lunch
Math	Option
Option	Science

## THE LACROSSE PROGRAM

TLP Power is the formal name for The Lacrosse Program at Vimy Ridge Academy. TLP Power is open to all prospective student-athletes in Grades 7 through 12. The emphasis of instruction within our program is on both field lacrosse and box lacrosse. For student-athletes that are interested in combining lacrosse with academics at an NCAA or Canadian post-secondary institution, it would be through the game of field lacrosse. Box lacrosse is the traditional Canadian sport, born of the Native North Americans.

Student-athletes in TLP Power are able to make use of the flexible scheduling to balance their academics with the training on the lacrosse field. They have access to professional coaches certified at the highest levels of the Canadian Lacrosse Association. Student-athletes in the program also receive instruction and training with our fitness professionals to enhance their speed, agility, quickness and power.

The entire curriculum has been designed to help student-athletes become better lacrosse players through skill development sessions. Student-athletes receive, on average four hours of direct lacrosse instruction per week.

TLP Power also provides opportunities for student-athletes to travel to field lacrosse tournaments across North America. The past two years, TLP Power has sent teams to Seattle to participate in the Space Needle Shootout. TLP Power is committed to continuing these opportunities for student-athletes in the future. We are proud to have seen student-athletes move forward to prep schools and universities.

**Applications for The Lacrosse Program will be received during the months of February through April. The application form is available by contacting our office at 780-465-5461 or by visiting our program website at [www.thelacrosseprogram.com](http://www.thelacrosseprogram.com).**

JUNIOR HIGH Lacrosse Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
English/Social	English/Social
Math/Science	Math/Science
French or Spanish	
Lunch	Lunch
Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Lacrosse	Lacrosse

GRADE 10 Lacrosse Sample Timetable	
Semester 1	Semester 2
English	Social
Math	Science
Option	Option
Lunch	Lunch
Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Lacrosse/Option	Lacrosse/Option

## ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE

We offer a number of alternative programs for students who plan to participate in a program of choice as part of their academic experience. Acceptance into an alternative program at Vimy Ridge Academy will be based on the following criteria:

1. Space availability in the program of choice
2. Applicant's behavioral history, ensuring a safe learning environment for all students in the program
3. Matching the applicant's level of ability with an age appropriate group



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## JUNIOR HIGH HONOURS PROGRAM

Vimy Ridge Academy offers an academic honours program for students. The goal of this program is to assist students with high intellectual ability to achieve scholastically while developing an understanding of their own challenges and the strategies necessary to meet their goals in life. The Junior High Honours Program offers advanced academic programming for students within an environment specifically designed to meet their social and emotional needs.

Students participate in academic classes with specialized materials and supports where required. Teachers have training and experience in honours-level instruction, and many have participated in pre-advanced placement conference training.

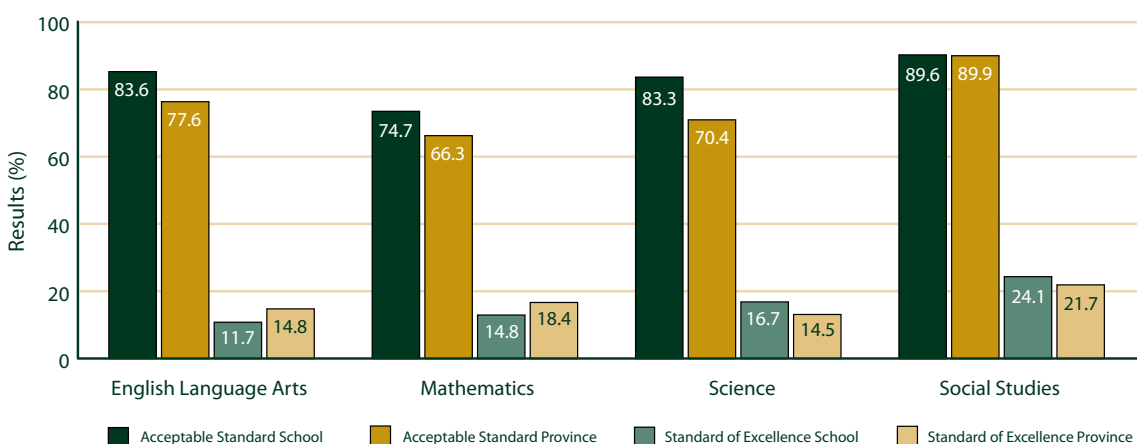
Vimy Ridge Academy Junior High Honours Program students will gain a global look at concepts, problems and issues that cross academic areas and expand upon the curriculum. Prerequisites for this program include an 80% average in the four core subjects.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At Vimy Ridge Academy, our focus is on student achievement. After each report period students are recognized for their academic accomplishments in the categories of Honours and Honours with Distinction. Students achieving Honours have maintained an average of between 80% and 89% with no mark below 65%. Students achieving Honours with Distinction have maintained an average of 90% or better with no mark below 65%. At both the junior and senior high levels, the award average is based solely on the marks recorded for the core subjects.

Traditionally, 35% of our school population achieves Honours or Honours with Distinction standing. We recognize that the combination of highly motivating alternative program choices and a school wide focus on improving student achievement has resulted in exceptional academic performance. As such, our Grade 9 and Grade 12 results continue to be among the best in the District. The following graph highlights our Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Test results over the past three years.

### Vimy Ridge Provincial Achievement Test Results (Recent 3 year average)



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students at Vimy Ridge Academy shine when it comes to participation, enthusiasm, citizenship and sense of community. Our student council works with dynamic teacher advisors to help create a school atmosphere that is second to none.

Our Student Council motto is “Get Involved!” and our students/staff do that in a big way. We start the year off with a huge weeklong event called the Week of Welcome (WOW). During the first week of school our WOW Team hosts the Grade 7 orientation morning, organizes an explosive pep rally, puts on the “Root Beer Gardens” BBQ with a popular live band and pumps up school spirit by creating the Green Mile. The Grade 7 orientation morning is an excellent opportunity for students to establish friendships with people in other programs. Our school population is growing, but is still small enough to have an intimate school atmosphere. Establishing positive relationships in our school is a priority. Halloween is always a massive event at VRA. Last year we had 96% of the school population dressed up and almost as many attended the Halloween Howler Dance. December highlights include the Christmas Crack Up and the Mush Cup (human dog sledding race). Every year we push the limits, trying new events that are bigger and better. As well, both the junior high and senior high students have the opportunity to attend an action packed ski trip to the mountains. Some students are going for the skiing/boarding, but most are simply going for the camaraderie on the bus!

You may be thinking that VRA sounds like more fun than school. It is our plan to engage our students in school-based activities that build a strong sense of community. We are very proud of our school environment; we appreciate the safety of a community of students that know each other well, participate in school based events and are active in the learning environment of the school. Take a risk and come join our Student Leadership Team...you won't regret it!

