

FAQs

Overall

What's the Society?

The Leduc Society for Christian Education is the parent organization that oversees the Christian components of Covenant Christian School. Every K - 9 Covenant student must have at least one parent/guardian who is a member of the Society.

What's the Society Executive and what does it do?

The LSCE Executive is the parent group that serves as directors for the Society. These directors are charged with upholding the vision of the Society and making decisions on the Society's behalf.

Specifically, the Executive's key purpose is to ensure the ongoing integrity of the Christian program at Covenant. The Executive also oversees the assets of the Society (the building and transportation system) and the preschool program. The Executive deals with issues connected with wider aspects of Covenant's operation (purpose/vision, fundraising, facility, etc.), while the school's administration/principal deals with day-to-day operations of the school (programming, staffing, students, etc.). The seven parent Executive members are selected at the Society Annual General Meeting (usually held in May).

How do Black Gold and the Society work together with "dual governance"?

Black Gold (BGRS) oversees the operation of Covenant Christian School as a school under all the Alberta regulations for public schools. BGRS ensures that Covenant's programming meets Alberta Ed guidelines and provides Covenant with government support for each student as well as rental income for the main school space. But Covenant is not an ordinary public school—we run an alternative program. The alternative program is, of course, our Christian component. Christianity isn't just a "tack on" to some parts of Covenant and not others, but in terms of governance, it's easier to think of two separate entities. So the Leduc Society for Christian Education (LSCE) is the other governing body, and the LSCE Executive is the parent group that serves as directors for the Society. These directors are charged with upholding the vision of the Society and making decisions on the Society's behalf.

Some aspects of the Christian program don't require a lot of governance but are essential. For example, sending teachers to PD (we don't run the PD, so we don't make decisions about it, but we pay for it!). We also provide input into CCS hiring and hear regular reports from the CCS principal on Christian programming. The LSCE also has a very practical side--our buses and facility. We also run a preschool program. To own and operate these assets and help with Christian programming, we hire staff and receive and distribute funds. We do have committees that help in all these areas (Transportation, Facilities, Preschool, Fundraising, and Finance), as well as a Public Relations Committees (to help build community and promote Covenant).

Although the dual governance model is difficult to explain, the outcome is an integrated Christian education, with graduates who successfully meet Alberta standards while becoming builders of God's Kingdom.

Why don't we have a high school?

We do elementary and junior high education well. High schools must provide a much wider variety of programs and meet more specialized government criteria. We do not have the resources (in staff expertise, financial support, facility space) to run a high school program. Furthermore, given that most families happily send their students to public high schools, the need for a Christian high school isn't very high.

What does it mean that we are a discipleship school?

Covenant requires all staff to be Christians and to adhere to Covenant's Core Principles. The Leduc Society for Christian Education also requires that every student has at least one parent or guardian who adheres to our foundational documents and Christian focus. So we expect our community to be Christians already and our goal is to grow in faith together. Missional schools, in contrast, do not require Christian faith upon admission and instead aim to teach this faith to community members.

How can I help or volunteer?

Covenant and the Leduc Society for Christian Education couldn't function without the many volunteers who bless us. We ask all families to stay committed to the Parent Partnership (providing students with adequate time and space for school, arriving on time, communicating concerns via Biblical principles).

We also realize that the time and energy for volunteering for CCS/LSCE varies from family to family, and that some families have time during the day and others in the evening. So we welcome whatever involvement fits your family at this time.

Here are some possibilities:

- Pray for our students and staff
- Attend Society meetings
- Help out with a once-a-year special event (e.g., Marketplace Day, Terry Fox Run)
- Help your child's classroom teacher
- Help with frequent school programs (e.g., parent prayer group, hot lunch program)
- Join School Council
- Join an LSCE standing committee (Executive, Fundraising, Facilities, Finance, Preschool, Public Relations, Transportation)

If you are interested in additional opportunities, watch for announcements in The Chronicle and classroom newsletters and/or discuss your interests with the office staff.

Transportation

Why do we sometimes cancel buses?

When the buses are cancelled due to road conditions or weather, we are following recommendations from Black Gold. We realize that the weather can change quickly, so sometimes the threat of icy roads will cancel the buses the night before or early in the morning and by afternoon the sun is shining. We will also cancel individual routes if road conditions on

that route seem unsafe. Student safety is our primary concern. Occasionally we also cancel buses due to mechanical issues (but we will find a spare bus as soon as possible).

Why do Catholic and county schools operate bussing differently?

The two different school divisions have different perimeters/catchment areas and different government funding.

Why can't all students be picked up at home?

Routing decisions are not made lightly. Our bussing families lie outside the Black Gold catchment area, which means that we have significant travel time. We try to maintain the industry standard bussing time of 90 minutes per run. Therefore it is not feasible to offer door-to-door service for all families. Routes are planned according to the most efficient direction of travel, road suitability, and student safety during pick ups, drop offs, and turn arounds.

Preschool

Why do we have a preschool?

We are committed to providing Christian education. Since the educational journey for some families begins with preschool, that's where we want our educational program to begin as well. The preschool program also serves to help welcome families to the Covenant community.

Why isn't my child reading or achieving other academic markers in preschool?

Our preschool works on age-appropriate academics for 4-year olds, such as beginning to recognize letters, learning to use scissors and glue, learning to interact with others, and adapting to a classroom environment. "Normal" academic development for children at this age spans a tremendous variety of skills. If you have concerns about your child's development, arrange a convenient time outside of class to discuss the matter with the preschool teacher.