



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:11

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT UMEI?

UMEI is a Christian high school founded in the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith. At our school, students know that they are created by God who loves and values them which allows them to love and value others. Our Christian faith is the foundation of the school environment which nurtures community, support, acceptance and belonging. It means that we look to the life of Jesus Christ for how to live our lives in service, and to his resurrection as our hope and promise of new life. It means listening to the calling of the Holy Spirit together as we learn, serve and lead.

In addition to this nurturing environment, students attend chapel every day to hear from teachers, visiting pastors or people in the community, and even their peers about how God is moving and shaping the world today. We regularly pray as a community for hope and healing, and we sing in praise to the Lord.



Students take one religious studies course each year where they study the Bible, the life and ministry of Jesus, God's grace, and the history of the church. They wrestle with questions in Grade 12 philosophy as they begin to own their faith and learn what it means to walk with Jesus. Every class is taught by a Christian teacher who models faith in their teaching and working relationships with students. As a school, we use principles of restorative justice when problems arise in our community.

Being rooted in the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith, active peacemaking, service, and discipleship are at the core of all we do as we seek out God's will in today's world. All students who wish to learn and grow in such an environment, regardless of faith background, are welcome to enroll at UMEI Christian High School.



At UMEI, spiritual life is nurtured in several ways:

- 1** Classes - yearly Religious Studies courses, Christian educators in all classes
- 2** Daily Chapels - teachers, visiting pastors, students, prayer, Advent, Lent
- 3** Service - servant leadership model, service project days, Faith in Action club
- 4** Worship Music - concert choir, music chapels, church visits

FAITH PRACTICES

- In this school students know they are loved and valued by God which enables them to value and love each other.
- Students are encouraged to grow in relationship with Jesus and to follow Jesus daily in life through attitudes and practice.
- Staff members in our school are committed to modeling the life of Jesus
- UMEI invites parents to become partners in the faith formation of their child.
- Peacebuilding, including the use of restorative discipline, is regularly modeled and practiced as a lifestyle of nonviolence, seeking justice and being part of a reconciling faith community.
- Students grow in understanding the process of biblical discernment by asking questions, practicing spiritual disciplines, and engaging with other Christians.
- Our school builds a strong faith and learning community in which students and staff support each other.
- Our school is a community that lives the gospel message through praying, serving others, and enabling students to grow in understanding that they can make a positive difference in the world globally and locally.
- Our school provides a welcoming community where it is emotionally safe to raise questions, to value and learn from differences, and to care for each other.
- Stories and symbols of faith and reconciliation are regularly shared in our school community.
- Students grow in their understanding of stewardship of all God has entrusted to them, including the natural environment.
- Our school does everything it can to eliminate the obstacles that exclude or hinder the ability of students to receive a faith-infused, education of excellence.
- Our school values and is responsive to cultural, racial and socio-economic diversity.
- The school enables students to practice global awareness, cultural sensitivity, anti-racism, and compassionate living.
- Our school enables students to live a life of curiosity, wonder and mystery as they join with God to bring the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven.