

## Learning Assistance Programs

### Mild Cognitive Disability

**Alexandra Middle School: Grades 7-8**

**Medicine Hat High School: Grades 9-12**

The Learning Assistance Programs are designed to meet the needs of students with mild cognitive disabilities. They strive to provide a nurturing, stimulating and enjoyable learning environment in which all students can experience success and increase their self esteem and self confidence. The programs promote student accountability and assist students in becoming independent learners. Curriculum is modified. An Individualized Program Plan is designed and implemented for each student. Students may be transported by bus if they live beyond the school's boundaries.

The following criteria determine eligibility for placement:

- an intelligence quotient (IQ) below the average range as measured on an individualized intelligence test;
- a score equivalent to the mildly delayed level on an adaptive behaviour scale; and
- developmental delays in social behaviours.

Admission is based on extensive teacher reporting and observation and standardized assessment results. Informed parental consent is obtained for formal testing by a registered psychologist and parents are advised of assessment results and placement options available within the district.

### Alexandra Middle School Program

#### Grades 7-8

The Learning Assistance Program at Alexandra School is designed to meet the needs of students with a diagnosed learning disability. It strives to provide a nurturing, stimulating and enjoyable learning environment in which all students can experience success and increase their self esteem and self confidence. The program promotes student accountability and assists students in becoming independent learners. Students may be transported by bus if they live beyond the school's boundaries.

"Learning Disabilities" refer to a number of disorders which may affect the acquisition, organization, retention, understanding or use of verbal or non-verbal information. These disorders affect learning in individuals who otherwise demonstrate at least average abilities essential for thinking and/or reasoning. They interfere with the acquisition and use of one or more of the following: oral language, reading, written language or mathematics.

To be eligible for placement, students should have a diagnosis of a learning disability from a registered psychologist. This requires both a cognitive assessment which places the intelligence quotient (IQ) in the average range and achievement testing which indicates unexpected academic underachievement.

Admission is based on extensive teacher reporting, observation and assessment results. Informed parental consent is obtained for formal testing by a registered psychologist and parents are advised of assessment results and placement options available within the district.

## Our Vision Statement

Developing tomorrow's citizens  
through improved learning, living and relationships.

### Alexandra Middle School

477-6th St SE  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 1H4  
(403) 527-8571

- Learning Assistance Programs
- MyPlace Program

### Crescent Heights High School

1201 Division Ave N.E  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 5Y8  
(403) 527-6641

- Learning Assistance Programs
- MyPlace Program
- J Programs
- K & E Programs

### Georges P. Vanier School

122-13th St SE,  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 1W5  
(403) 527-2747

- Congregated Special Needs School

### Medicine Hat High School

200-7th St SW  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 4K1  
(403) 527-3371

- Transitions Program
- Learning Assistance Program
- Learning Strategies Program
- K & E Programs



**MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76**

**601 - 1st Avenue S.W.**

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**MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76**

# STUDENT SERVICES

**MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

*When you need a hand...*

## The "MyPlace" Project

**Alexandra Middle School: Grades 7-8**

**Crescent Heights High School: Grades 7-9**

MyPlace is a Mental Health Capacity Building Project designed to provide mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention programs for middle year students in the Medicine Hat School District.

The MyPlace program offers mental health information to students through classroom presentations and school wide activities. It also offers mental health information sessions to parents, teachers and community partners who play an integral role in the capacity building for youth.

MyPlace success coaches provide in-school support for identified students in order to foster self-esteem, appropriate social skills, and community connections. The success coaches can also re-educate students in areas such as stress management, problem solving and effective time management. Success coaches, through activity programming, provide a place for the students to connect, feel welcome and develop positive productive relationships.

The MyPlace program coordinates and brings youth service agencies into the school to establish a mental health safety net for all middle year students. On site support is offered in an inclusive and youth friendly manner that fosters a supportive environment and promotes individual resiliency.



**Medicine Hat School District No. 76**

*"Where Kids Count"*

*There's a great selection of secondary-level programs to help you succeed!*



## **Transitions Program**

**Medicine Hat High School: Grade 9-12**

The Transitions Program is a program of instruction for students having difficulty coping with the regular stream program. The program's courses are focused on improving students' competencies in communication, computation, and social relationships. The goal of the program is to have students experience success and achievement in their learning experiences, thereby enhancing self esteem and building capacity to become more responsible members of society.

The Knowledge and Employability courses are designed for students who learn best through experiences that integrate essential employability skills in occupational contexts. The courses provide students opportunities to enter into employment or continue their education.

At the end of the program students may be eligible to receive a Certificate of High School Achievement (Knowledge and Employability) or a High School Diploma.

## **Learning Strategies Program**

**Medicine Hat High School: Grade 9-12**

The Learning Strategies Program (LSP) is designed to assist students currently experiencing difficulties in the classroom to achieve their full potential as learners. The aim is to provide a caring and understanding environment in which students can develop into self-confident, independent and efficient life-long learners. The focus of the program is the acquisition of specific strategies that will enable the students to be more successful learners. All students in LSP receive individualized instruction, aiding in the development of a positive attitude to learning.

## **Junior Learning Assistance Program**

**Programs to Support Students  
with Mild Cognitive Disabilities**

**Crescent Heights High School: Grades 7-9**

The Junior Learning Assistance Program focuses on providing students with individualized vocational and life skills based programming. Junior Learning Assistance Program students are given the opportunity to apply their learning to their home and school environments through hands-on and cooperative learning activities. The low student-teacher ratio allows students to work in an environment that fosters life-long learning and mastery of concepts. The goal of the program is for students to complete the Learning Assistance Program with essential life and vocational skills necessary for daily living.

## **Senior Learning Assistance Program**

**Programs to Support Students  
with Mild Cognitive Disabilities**

**Crescent Heights High School: Grades 10-12**

The Senior Learning Assistance Program prepares students to live in their community. It is based on the belief that each student is assured equal access to the educational options and support provided to all students of the same age group. The Senior Learning Assistance Program provides students with the opportunity to work in a general education environment for some classes while giving extra support for core curriculum and instructional options, with adaptations and modifications, assistive technology, and communication strategies necessary to meet individual needs.

The purpose of the Senior Learning Assistance Program is to ensure that every student, regardless of the severity of his or her disability, is capable of living, working, and participating in their community. Student-centered transition planning is implemented to ensure that all students have access to proper services for planning their future.

## **J Modified Program Overview**

**Crescent Heights High School: Grades 7-8**

The J Modified program addresses students who are finding one or two academic areas challenging but whose primary goals and objectives are academic. Instruction for students participating in these classes is based upon the general education core curriculum using modified and/or alternative instructional strategies. Students are given modified assignments, projects, and exams but are still following the grade level curriculum. Class sizes are smaller to facilitate the support that is needed for students in this program.

## **Knowledge & Employability Program Overview**

**Crescent Heights High School: Grade 9  
Medicine Hat High School: Grades: 9-11**

The K&E program addresses students whose primary objectives are to become prepared for employment, further studies and citizenship. Grade 9 K&E gives students who learn best through experiences and hands-on learning, an opportunity to use a different approach to learning curriculum. Class sizes are smaller to facilitate the needs of the students in the program.

