

## Teaching at Luther College High School

Luther College High School is a historical independent school offering exceptional secondary education for students in grades 9 to 12. Luther College offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme and a strong liberal arts curriculum that develops critical thinking and inquiry skills. Our motto, "Quality education in a Christian context" refers, in part, to the education of the whole person. The school enjoys a reputation for excellence in academics, but also for extensive and vibrant co-curricular programming, all guided by a dedicated teaching staff which challenges students to excel and discover their gifts.

Luther College is rooted in Lutheran theology and understandings of scholarship and the critical pursuit of truth, but open to and inclusive of other beliefs and understandings. Therefore, we are an ecumenical school, rather than a confessional institution seeking converts to Christianity. Students are opened to a wide array of religious and non-religious viewpoints, but never coerced to adopt one. Thus, "Christian context" does not mean exclusivity or proselytization. Students and faculty are encouraged to develop spiritual understandings and to engage matters of faith and religion in an open, academically accountable environment. All are prompted to think critically about what they believe and why they believe it while also respecting others, their beliefs, and their right to hold such beliefs.

Most importantly, Christian context at Luther is a description of the way we want to interact with each other on a daily basis. Generally, we strive to be a respectful and generous community, and one that forgives each other. We conduct ourselves with the belief that there is purpose and hope in life; God has a plan for each one of us and has given gifts for us to develop and use to serve others. We strive to model Christ-like behaviour, but acknowledge that we fail often and must, therefore, live by grace.

Teachers at Luther are expected to attend Open Houses, Information Evenings, and other major school events. All teachers and students are required to attend daily chapel. Chapel is typically around 20 minutes and takes many forms from spiritual, to educational, to entertaining. The school's chaplain coordinates the chapel program. Teachers, students, and outside guests often serve as guest speakers.

Teachers at Luther College are given considerable professional latitude. Provided provincial curricula accountability standards are met, faculty are free to choose their evaluation/assessment methods, teaching styles, class expectations and discipline measures. Teachers may ascribe purposeful homework, failing grades and zeroes as long as they have sound pedagogical reasons for doing so.