

Connect Charter School EXPO Program At A Glance

*Connect Charter School **develops extraordinary citizens***

The EXPO program deepens, enriches, and extends **learning through a disposition of inquiry** at Connect Charter School.

- Place-based education (PBE) takes students beyond the walls of the classroom.
- Students understand how the big ideas they are learning in school relate to what's happening out in their community.
- When students learn deeply what is happening locally, they begin to make comparisons globally.
- Place Based Education will help students better understand their place in the world – what is compelling to them will help them develop their future potential.
- Students with diverse learning needs thrive in settings where learning aligns with their cognitive strengths and capacity.

The EXPO program maintains current **specialist teachers, pod structure** (4 classes per grade), and **one-to-one technology**.

- Student/Parent/staff voice has been incorporated to make this program a true reflection of the Connect community.
- Connect will continue to adhere to the Program of Studies for Alberta, and ensure that students have exemplary foundational knowledge and skills.

The EXPO program will provide more opportunities for **research** and **innovation**, in accordance with our [Charter](#).

- Connect is well positioned to be a leader in research - already have partnerships with Mount Royal University and the University of Calgary.
- Connect's journey into experiential learning and PBE will be shared at the *Partner Research Schools Conference* (August 2017) and at the *Association of Experiential Education Conference* in Montreal (November 2017)

The EXPO program provides opportunities for **service learning** and **community engagement**.

- How can Connect students give back to the community while having deep learning experiences?
- One example of "offsite" is a school greenhouse to be used as a year-round outdoor classroom. Students will have the opportunity to study ecosystems, climate and soil conditions, solar power, geography. Planning and donating the harvest will reinforce community engagement.

The EXPO program will continue to **build and strengthen cross-curricular connections**.

- Led by teachers, students can identify and study a problem or issue in their community, through the lens of all disciplines (social studies, science, mathematics, humanities, and the arts).
- These local investigations build opportunities for civic and global engagement.

Resources:

<http://www.gettingsmart.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/What-is-Place-Based-Education-and-Why-Does-it-Matter-3.pdf>