

## Here's What Valleycrest Kids are Saying

**"I'm so happy it's not a snow day!"**

"I'm literally pumped!"

**"I'm so glad I don't have that in my heart anymore."**

"The best thing about Valleycrest is  
Thursday - computer day."

**"We have a library right in our classroom."**

## Important Names and Numbers


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Web: <https://phoenixctr.com/service/school-based-programs/>



**Valleycrest**

we are  
**safe**

we  
**belong**

we  
**learn**

we are  
**strong**

Renfrew County  
**Catholic District School Board**  
*Schools to Believe In!*

Renfrew County  
**Phoenix Centre**  
For Children and Families

Renfrew County  
**District School Board**  
INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.



*RCCDSB in Partnership  
with RCDSB & Phoenix*

Section 23 School  
Renfrew & Pembroke Locations

# Contents

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<b>Welcome to Valleycrest</b> .....	<b>1</b>
A Message from Our Principal.....	<b>1</b>
We're on a Mission.....	<b>1</b>
<b>You May be Wondering</b> .....	<b>2</b>
What IS a Section 23 School?.....	<b>2</b>
Why MY Child? .....	<b>2</b>
How will THIS School Help? .....	<b>3</b>
What is Different about Valleycrest? .....	<b>4</b>
<b>The Decision is Made ... Now What?</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Life at Valleycrest</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Here's What Valleycrest Kids are Saying.....	<b>6</b>
<b>Important Names and Numbers</b> .....	<b>6</b>



Valleycrest Renfrew  
Located at St. Thomas



Valleycrest Pembroke  
Located at Holy Name

"At Valleycrest, children and their families can develop coping skills that promote mental health and well-being."

# Life at Valleycrest

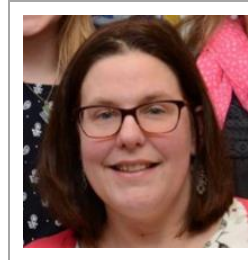
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- Programming is built around the core values of  
    *Safety*  
    *Learning*  
    *Belonging &*  
    *Empowerment*
- These values form the philosophical approach used in a nurturing environment to stimulate self-acceptance and help children overcome adversity.
- There is a therapeutic component to instruction and students will participate in life skills groups every day.
- Case management and family therapy are provided by a family and child therapist.
- Children receive academic instruction in all core subjects according to the Ontario curriculum. Academics are individualized based on each child's grade level and learning gaps. French and Religious instruction are not offered.
- Physical Education classes and regular recesses are scheduled daily.
- Students are expected to attend 5 days a week and follow the regular school calendar including PA days. On case conference and teacher training days students do not attend.
- Transportation is provided. Regular bus discipline policies apply.
- There is no choice in location.
- Duration of stay at Valleycrest is typically one school year from the date of admission.

"... the primary goal is always for the child to return to their home school."

# Welcome to Valleycrest

## A Message from Our Principal



**Heidi Fraser**

Principal of  
Special Education  
for RCCDSB and  
Valleycrest

Thank you for considering our Section 23 School as an option to help your child experience success on their educational journey. At Valleycrest, we provide a Day Treatment Program run by the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board (RCCDSB) in partnership with the Phoenix Centre. Intensive therapeutic intervention for children is provided with two main areas of focus: mental health and educational needs. While the program is set up as an extension of the child's home school, individual, family, and group therapy is an expectation for children and their families while attending Valleycrest.

## We're on a Mission



**Janet Cullen**

Clinical Manager  
Renfrew County  
Phoenix Centre

The primary purpose of the program at Valleycrest is to promote the emotional, cognitive, and social development of children with significant mental health needs in an intimate therapeutic setting. While every child's treatment is individualized, improved functioning in all areas of life is the primary goal for students in the program. Treatment includes the child, parents, community school staff, day treatment staff, and any other person or professionals considered necessary. A child comes to our program to develop and practice new skills, but the primary goal is always for the child to return to their home school.

## The Decision is Made...Now What?

- The decision for your child to attend Valleycrest School can not be entered into lightly. It is a voluntary placement and everyone must be fully committed to the process for it to be successful.
- As a "team" endeavour, there are expectations and responsibilities for the child, the parents, and the home school. Contracts will need to be signed to ensure commitment to the process and to acknowledge the requirement to attend a minimum of three case conferences.
- Individual, family, and group therapy is an expectation while your child is attending Valleycrest.
- Referrals are submitted by your principal to the Renfrew County Coordinated Access Committee at [renfrewcccac@gmail.com](mailto:renfrewcccac@gmail.com).
- Your child must meet the eligibility requirements to be accepted into the program:
  - ✓ Students must be in grades 2 to 5 (regardless of age).
  - ✓ They must attend a school in Renfrew County.
  - ✓ School attendance has been acceptable.
  - ✓ There is no current diagnosis of Autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, or significant developmental delay.
- This process takes some time depending upon meeting dates, intake processes, and space availability.
- Applicants **must** fill out an application form, attend a pre-admission information session, and personally visit the assigned classroom to meet staff and learn about routines to be considered for acceptance.

*"Participation in a Valleycrest intervention program is voluntary and everyone must be committed to the process for it to be successful."*

## You May be Wondering...

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### What IS a Section 23 School?

- The Education Act regulates how education is delivered to students enrolled in publicly funded schools.
- Ontario's Bill 82 requires boards of education to provide special education services to all students who are in need.
- A Section 23 placement provides an educational program and mental health services for students whose circumstances or needs prevent them from being successful at their home school.
- Funding is provided by the Ministry of Education under Section 23, Grants for Student Needs, in partnership with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services.
- Valleycrest is the Section 23 School for Renfrew County for grades 2 to 5.
- Children enrolled in either a public or separate English-speaking school in Renfrew County may be eligible.

### Why MY Child?

- If your child's principal is suggesting Valleycrest as an option for your family, it means that a "day treatment program" could be the answer.
- Children who consistently struggle to experience success in the mainstream school setting, despite special education interventions, counselling, and mental health services being provided, may benefit from the specialized services that Valleycrest has to offer.
- If your child's emotional, behavioural and/or mental health difficulties are interfering with their ability to function at home, at school and in the community, Valleycrest can help.

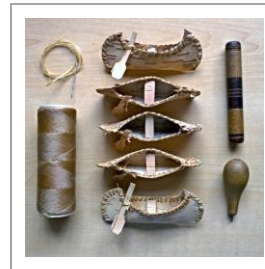
### How will THIS School Help?

- Through the provision of weekly therapy sessions and targeted academics, the focus at Valleycrest is on improved functioning in all areas of the child's life both at home and at school.
- This specialized school strives to promote the emotional, cognitive, and social development of children with significant mental health needs through daily skills groups, individual child counselling, and the academic support needed to improve behaviour and overall functioning.

### What is Different About Valleycrest?



*Team Building &  
Hands-On Activities*



*Outings, Visitors &  
Guest Speakers*

- Professionals will address your child's needs academically, socially and emotionally.
- Each classroom is staffed with a teacher, an educational assistant, a child & youth counsellor, as well as a family and child therapist and music teacher weekly.
- Class sizes are limited to 9 students.
- Individualized and small group instruction is the norm.
- There is no judgement from peers or staff.
- Your child will gain a sense of belonging and learn to build healthy relationships.
- Every student has an opportunity to learn tools and strategies that will last a lifetime should they choose to use them.