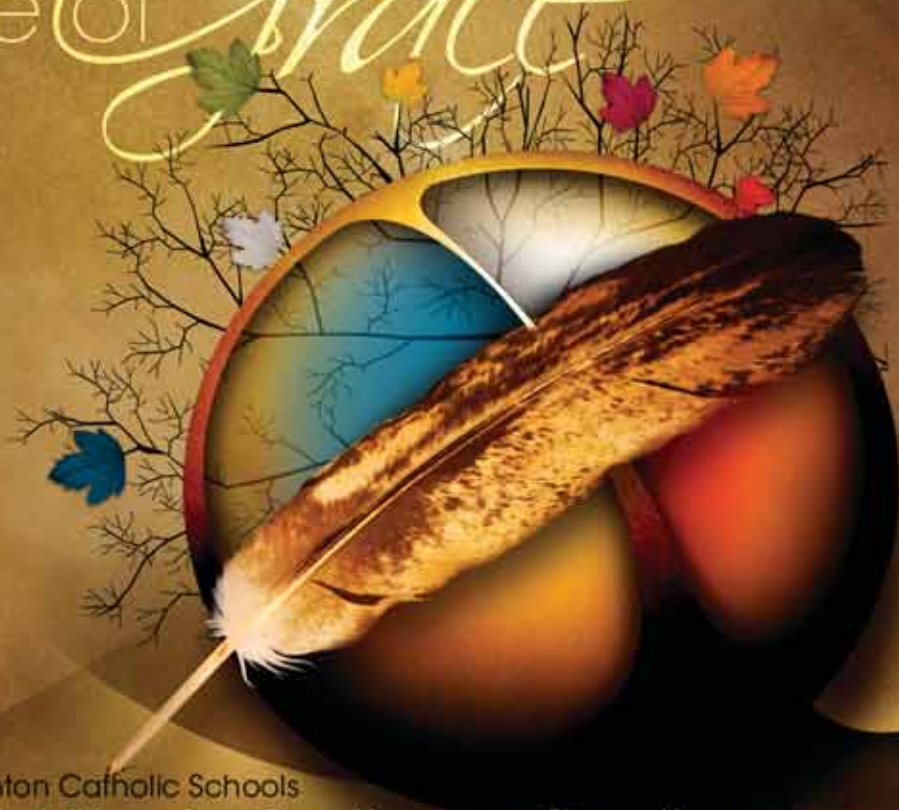



Awaken our senses, stir our hearts.

# Life of Grace



Edmonton Catholic Schools

District Plan for Continuous Growth 2011-2014



The grace of God  
has appeared on  
earth bringing  
salvation  
to all.

*Titus  
2:11*

# Our Foundation

*The mission of Edmonton Catholic Schools is to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another.*

## *We believe in God and we believe*

- that each person is created in the image and likeness of God
- that each child is a precious gift and sacred responsibility
- in the goodness, dignity and worth of each person
- that Christ is our model and our teacher
- in celebrating and witnessing our faith
- in transforming the world through Catholic education
- that Catholic education includes spiritual growth and fulfillment
- that learning is a lifelong journey
- that all can learn and develop their gifts
- in building Christ-centred communities for service to one another
  - that all have rights, roles and responsibilities for which they are accountable
  - that Catholic education is a shared responsibility in which parents have a primary role

## *Inspired by*

- Love of the Father
- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Hope from the Holy Spirit

## *Vision*

Our students will learn together, work together and pray together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.

## *Eight Characters of Catholic Education*

- Community
- Hospitality
- Humanness
- Justice
- Rationality
- Sacramentality
- Spirituality
- Tradition

## *Core Values*

- Dignity & Respect
- Honesty
- Loyalty
- Fairness
- Personal & Communal Growth

# A Statement of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning in Edmonton Catholic Schools

*Preparing our students for a world not yet realized*

In keeping with our Foundation Statement, the students and staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools commit to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. In support of hopeful Christ-centred living, in a society transformed by globalization, technological innovation, and human ingenuity, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning complements our commitment as a Catholic community of learners, leaders and educators.

Edmonton Catholic Schools fosters faith-based learning that deeply engages all staff and students in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning opportunities. All facets of the learning system - curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional learning, accountability and resource allocation -- are in support of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Students will be creative, critical-thinking global citizens, analysts, communicators and producers engaged in learning that is conceptual and authentic within an inquiry-based environment.

Guided by our moral compass and focused on the common good, students and staff will be self-directed, adaptable, discerning and curious, as they engage individually and collaboratively in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

Goal One:

## Success for every student

*This goal is central to our purpose and is our primary reason for existence.*

- 1.1 Demonstrate the distinctiveness and advantages of Catholic education
  - a) Create and support a Catholic ethos/environment within each site.
  - b) Demonstrate a way of life rooted in Christ's call to discipleship, social justice and service.
  - c) Increase awareness of cultural and societal influences on our schools.
- 1.2 Demonstrate commitment to and excellence in Catholic education
  - a) Demonstrate a commitment to Religious Education and faith formation learning opportunities for all staff.
  - b) Continue a focus upon school administrators' professional learning as Catholic educational leaders.
  - c) Honour the practice of excellence, professional preparation and quality of resource materials for Religious Education instruction as for other academic instruction.
  - d) Deliver the Religious Education programs as prescribed to all students.
- 1.3 Review the District Foundation Statement and its implication at least once yearly at each site
  - a) Ensure that the intent of our Foundation Statement is being maintained.
- 1.4 Improve school completion
  - a) Explore alternative methods of high school programming.
    - b) Implement school completion coaching models for Grades 9 to 12.
    - c) Implement career development programs and encourage lifelong learning.
- 1.5 Promote wellness in mind, body and spirit
  - a) Continue to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.
  - b) Continue to educate staff, parents and students about safety issues.
  - c) Continue to educate staff, parents and students on the District's nutrition policy and regulation.
- 1.6 Promote multiculturalism and community within the District
  - a) Promote acceptance of all people within our District through training in cultural understanding.
  - b) Provide educational programs that recognize the diverse needs of our students.
  - c) Integrate community services to strengthen education (e.g. daycare, breakfast programs, and counseling services).
- 1.7 Meet the learning needs of a diverse student population
  - a) Collaborate with ministries and community partners to meet the needs of a variety of learners.
  - b) Encourage and support innovative instructional learning groups.
  - c) Expand broad-based supports in early intervention and learning.

Goal Two:

## Transformed education through collaboration

*Within a faith-based environment, we engage students in transformative learning, which develops deep and innovative 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking and problem-solving skills.*

- 2.1 Recognize and provide for the diversity of student needs within our schools
  - a) Identify and implement initiatives through alternative education programs.
  - b) Continue to research and consider programs of choice that are aligned with the goals of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.
  - c) Adapt and provide for each and every child to achieve his/her maximum potential.
  - d) Facilitate transitions for all students among home, school and community, between grade levels, and into post-secondary institutions and the workforce.
  - e) Ensure that English Language Learners are supported in each school and throughout the District.
  - f) Provide timely and relevant professional learning opportunities for all staff.
  - g) Ensure that inclusion is an essential Catholic educational element: we are bonded as one human family.
- 2.2 Ensure that every school and department is committed to improving student learning and achievement within the context of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Catholic learning community.
  - a) Ensure that a variety of assessments including formative and summative are used within the classroom.
  - b) Ensure that technologies are embedded into the instructional design of the programs of study.
  - c) Ensure that appropriate and approved resources are used to support learning in the classrooms and that appropriate resources are allocated to support departments.
  - d) Ensure that schools and departments are given flexibility in allocating resources to meet their unique needs.
- 2.3 Engage in good stewardship of all resources
  - a) Educate departments, schools and the greater community about the costs associated with running the District.
  - b) Promote and implement District initiatives that support environmental stewardship.
- 2.4 Maintain the integrity and safety of our facilities
  - a) Continue to implement strategies to maximize the value of available capital and operational funding to maintain our facilities in a healthy and safe manner.
  - b) Work toward COR (Certificate of Recognition) achievement.
- 2.5 Further the presence of Edmonton Catholic Schools in the education, church, civic and government communities
  - a) Create opportunities to be a visible presence in the broader community.
  - b) Create opportunities to engage the Catholic community in discussion on Catholic education.
- 2.6 Seek, promote and engage in responsive and responsible community partnerships
  - a) Build, maintain and foster relationships and partnerships that promote the development and enhancement of programs and services within our District.

Goal Three:

## Success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Students

*The FNMI population presents unique challenges to school districts; additional supports and strategies are needed to address the challenges.*

- 3.1 Provide and promote cultural diversity
  - a) Involve Council of Elders as active participants in spiritual ceremonies and traditional events while recognizing their authentic perspective regarding cultural protocols.
  - b) Encourage parental and community involvement in furthering Aboriginal education in our District.
- 3.2 Funding for FNMI students
  - a) Expect all school sites to engage in the FNMI model framework for student success.
- 3.3 Promote and support FNMI student success
  - a) Identify and promote successful practices to support FNMI students.
  - b) Provide on-going professional development in cultural lifestyles for all District staff.
  - c) Explore opportunities to enhance the recruitment and successful transition of FNMI educators into the District.
  - d) Continue programs for successful transitioning and high school completion.

# Edmonton Catholic Schools

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