

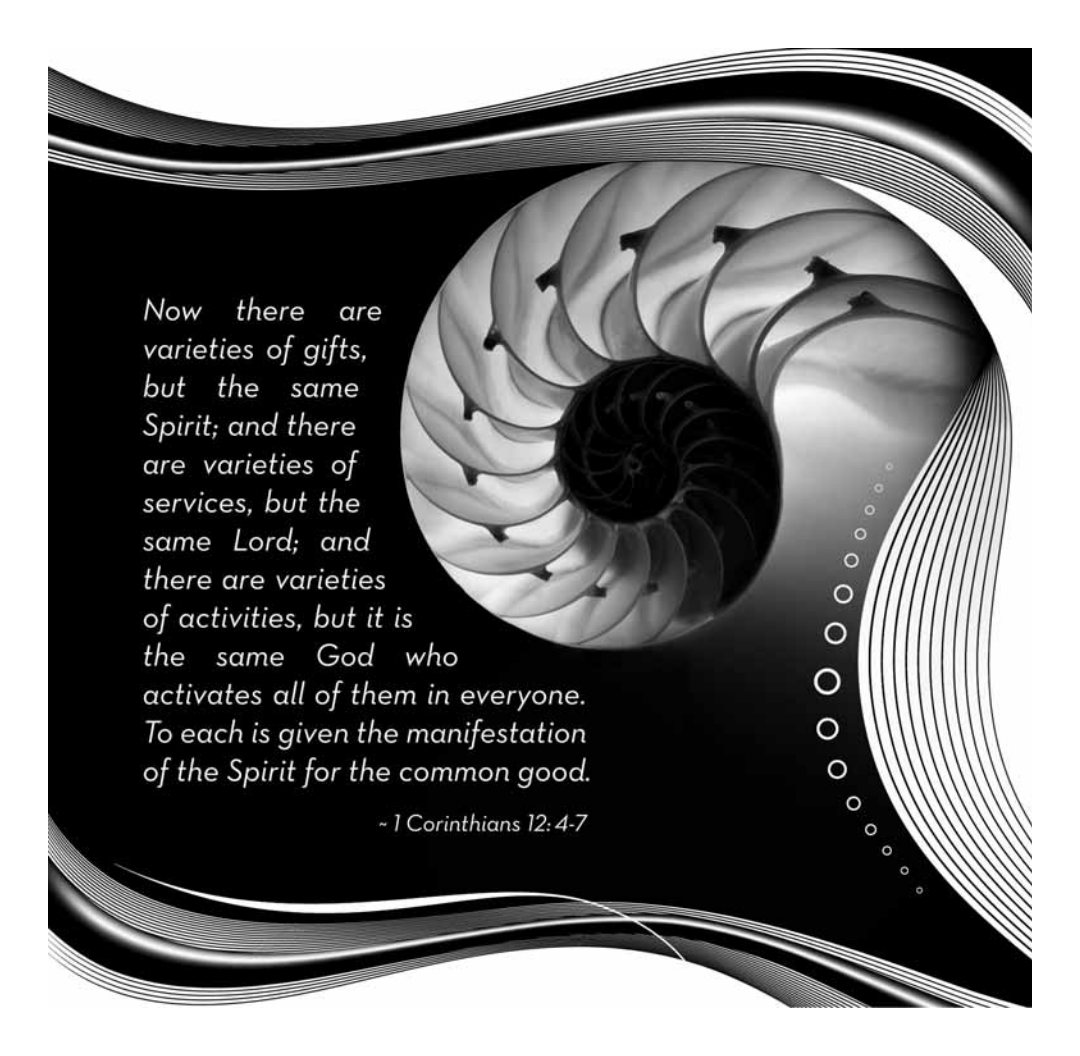
Edmonton Catholic Schools

District Plan for Continuous Growth

2010-2013

Reimagining Our Catholic Schools Through

Welcome, Witness and Wonder



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Our Foundation

Preparing our students for a world not yet realized

Inspired by

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

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

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.

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 21st 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 21st century learning. In support of hopeful Christ-centred living, in a society transformed by globalization, technological innovation, and human ingenuity, 21st 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 21st century learning opportunities. All facets of the learning system - curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional learning, accountability and resource allocation -- are in support of 21st 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 21st century learning.



District Plan for Continuous Growth 2010-2013

Goal One:

Celebrate and Promote Catholic Education

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 the Catholic Christian call to discipleship and service.
- 1.2 Foster 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.
- 1.3 Demonstrate commitment to and excellence in Catholic education
 - a) Continue a focus upon school administrators' professional learning as Catholic educational leaders. Demonstrate a commitment to Religious Education and faith formation learning opportunities for all staff, including financial support for the Graduate Diploma in Religious Education (GDRE) Bursary Program at Newman Theological College.
 - b) Expect the same practice of excellence, professional preparation and quality of resource materials for Religious Education instruction as for other academic instruction.
 - c) Deliver the Religious Education programs as prescribed to all students.
 - 1.4 Review the District Foundation Statement and its implication at least once yearly at each site
 - a) Ensure that the intent of our Foundation Statement has been maintained.
 - 1.5 Identify, honour and protect our history and traditions of Catholic education through archival collections.

Goal Two:

Provide High Levels of Student Learning

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

- 2.1 Ensure that every school and department is committed to improved student learning and achievement within the context of a Catholic learning community
 - a) Ensure that a variety of assessments including formative and summative are used within the classroom.
 - b) Ensure that technology is embedded into the delivery of the programs of study.
 - c) Ensure that appropriate and approved resources are used to support learning in the classroom.
 - d) Provide timely and relevant professional learning opportunities for all staff.
 - e) Ensure that inclusion is an essential Catholic educational element: we are bonded as one human family.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Improve school completion
 - a) Explore alternative methods of high school programming.
 - b) Implement school completion coaching models for grades 9 to 12.

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 from an authentic perspective
 - a) Involve Council of Elders as active participants in spiritual ceremonies and traditional events.
 - b) Encourage parental and community involvement in furthering Aboriginal education in our District.
- 3.2 Funding for FNMI students
 - a) Encourage all school sites to engage in the FNMI model framework for student success.
- 3.3 Promote and support FNMI student success
 - a) Identify the most promising practices to support student learning.
 - b) Provide on-going professional development in cultural lifestyles for all District staff.
 - c) Explore opportunities to enhance the recruitment and successful transition of Aboriginal educators into the District.
 - d) Continue programs for successful transitioning, completion and for language and culture.

Goal Four:

Be a Highly Responsive and Responsible Catholic District

If we are not responsive and responsible, then we are not in keeping with the mandate from the Province.

We need to be efficient and effective in meeting the needs of our students: 21st century learners are responsive.

In moving to a conceptual age, we need to have students seeking information and developing concepts and solutions.

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Foster and 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).
- 4.3 Recognize and provide for the diversity of student needs within our schools
 - a) Identify and implement initiatives through alternative education programs.
 - b) Continue to develop programs of choice that are aligned with the goals of 21st century learning.
 - c) Adapt and provide for each and every child to achieve his/her maximum potential.
 - d) Implement career development programs and encourage lifelong learning.
- 4.4 Engage in good stewardship of all resources
 - a) Educate departments and schools about the cumulative costs associated with running the District.
 - b) Promote and initiate District initiatives that support environmental stewardship.
- 4.5 Promote safety, wellness, healthy choices and healthy lifestyles
 - a) Continue to encourage positive lifestyle choices.
 - b) Continue to educate staff and students about safety issues.
 - c) Continue to educate staff, students and parents on the District's nutrition policy and regulation.



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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