



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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## News Release

### **The first Catholic District to receive authorization for International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programmes**

Edmonton Catholic School District is the first Catholic School District in Alberta to receive official authorization for the Middle Years International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes. IB Director General, George Walker, informed the District from the IB headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland to relay the good news.

The Middle Years (Grades 7 – 10) IB Programmes are currently offered and now authorized at five Edmonton Catholic Schools: St. Clement, St. Edmund, St. Thomas More, Holy Trinity and Archbishop MacDonald. In addition, the Holy Trinity IB Diploma Programme (Grades 11 and 12) has also just been authorized. Archbishop MacDonald's Diploma Programme was authorized in 1984.

“Edmonton Catholic schools address the needs of the whole person – spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social. Our students, parents and staff walk hand-in-hand on a spiritual journey which is in total alignment with the IB philosophy,” said Charlie Koester, Edmonton Catholic School Board Chairperson.

The IB authorization process is extensive, taking approximately three years to complete. The process includes teacher training by international instructors from the IB Programme, curriculum development and finally a visit from an IB committee that interviews parents, students, teachers and administrators, ensuring that all IB guidelines have been met.

‘This authorization is a testament to the quality of education being offered to students in the Edmonton Catholic School District,’ said Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools. ‘We are proud of this accomplishment and thank all of our dedicated staff who are committed to the IB programmes and worked extremely hard to receive this official authorization,’ Dr. Ripley went on to say.

#### **For more information call:**

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