

Thank you to the parents of future Mother Mary Margaret grads!!

Highlights from the March 5th 2009 meeting

Living our Faith

- Kudos to the chapel!!! This should be a focus and highlight the welcoming nature of our school.
- Regular celebrations and daily prayer as a way to keep the faith alive and relevant to the students.
- Student involvement in the physical and spiritual presence of the Catholic faith – encourage student ownership of the faith components of the school.
- Our Catholicity should be visible in the main body of the school and every classroom: images, posters, icons, student created art murals, collages of students demonstrating their faith.
- Social justice activities that support the Catholic social teachings and working with feeder schools on these activities.
- All staff as role models and leaders in practicing our faith.
- Keep St. Thomas More clergy present and active in the school.

Academics

- Strong academics with something for students who want enrichment – IB, Advanced Placement, Gifted and Talented.
- Offer plenty of options for those students who are creative and/or want a holistic approach to their education
- Keep the focus on teaching and learning with well-rounded general programs and lots of choice.
- Help students prepare for the future in terms of career planning for the 21st century.
- Develop partnerships with post-secondary institutions such as the University of Alberta and NAIT.
- Equip the school for cutting edge Career and Technology (CTS) options and maintain the options offered in the feeder schools such as Robotics and construction design.
- Make the Fine Arts (music, drama, art, etc.) a focal point of school activities.
- Begin scholarship programs for students from this high school and keep students aware of all scholarship opportunities.
- Develop opportunities for students who need support through tutorial programs or peer tutoring.
- Offer options that are practical and teach life skills.
- Make this high school part of a neighborhood of schools so students want to stay part of the community.
- This is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) school; maintain the emphasis in this area by offering environmental design courses.

International Languages

- Offer international language programs: French, Mandarin, Spanish, Italian, Ukrainian
- Choose the second language programs according to the needs of business today and in the future.

Athletics, Health and Lifestyle

- Maintain the Daily Physical Activity (DPA) program from the feeder schools.
- Maintain a broad base of recreational support and recreational activities for all students such as intramurals, house leagues
- Include alternatives to traditional sports to encourage lifetime fitness skills and attitudes, and to include unique sports: Yoga, nutrition, meditation, fencing, diving, etc.
- Offer sports academies for popular sports.

Within and Beyond the Classroom

- Create a welcoming school that is accessible and inclusive, both physically and socially, for everyone.
- Build long-term partnerships with businesses and community organizations such as Junior Achievement, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the arts, co-op programs
- Offer plenty of choice for extra-curricular/social clubs –debate, leadership...and encourage students to be part of the decision making for their activities.
- Keep up the school's technology. Start with being wireless, laptops for all students, and Smart Boards.
- Choose a great administration team that will be visible and pro-active working with grade levels to follow students through their years at the school.
- Build a great school counselor team.