



## *We are ...#ECSDawesome*

### *We Celebrate Being Edmonton Catholic Schools... We Are #ECSDawesome!*

- **89** Schools in Edmonton + The Mountain Cree Camp School: Kisiko Awasis Kiskinahamawin
- **40,862** students from pre- Kindergarten to grade 12
- **9,067** English Language Learners (ELL)
- **3,245** First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) students
- Over **4100** staff
- One of **Alberta's Top 70 Employers 2016**
- **2 new schools** opening in September 2016, **5 new schools** opening in September 2017
- **3 Major Modernizations** in progress, **2 more** starting up
- **No school fees** for 2016-2017

### Partnerships/Diversity in Learning Environments

- Our new **Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centre** served over **1000** students last year within various programs which include:
  - **Ascension** Classroom Based Programs, **Freshstart** Outreach Day Programs, **P.A.S.S. (Part-time Alternative Evening School)**, **Summer School**
  - **Partnerships:** with Edmonton Public Library, Clareview Recreation Centre, Multi-Cultural Centre and YMCA Daycare to support all programs, and Strong Partnership with all Post-Secondary Institutions
- **100 Voices** Pre-kindergarten programming in **36 schools** and in many City of Edmonton Facilities, including **8 Leisure/Recreation Centres**, the Edmonton **Valley Zoo**, the **John Janzen Nature Centre**, and the **Muttart Conservatory**
- **Innovative Learning Partnerships** like the CTS **Bridge to Teacher Certification** program with welders and plumbers and **Dual credit opportunities** to expand opportunities for high school students to take university level courses in many fields in their grade 12 year.
  - The only **dedicated plumbing teaching facility** in a high school east of Ontario is being established at **Archbishop O'Leary High School**. This facility, which will open in the February 2017 has brought together partners such as the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 488, Alberta Pipefitters College, the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating and EMCO Corporation to build and establish the program.
- We are currently formalizing an agreement with **Kitaskinaw Educational Authority** to provide instructional leadership support to their school at **Enoch**.



## Growth and Student Success

- **High School Completion** – our 3, 4, and 5 year completion rates are all higher than the provincial averages : 3 years: **83.7%** (76.5% province), 4 years: **85.5%** (81.0% province) , 5 years: **86.7%** (82.1% province)
- **Dropout rate** – our dropout rate (**2.1%**) is lower than the province (3.2%). Similarly, our returning rate (**18.8%**) is higher than the province (18.2%)
- **Enrolment trends** continue to rise due to unprecedented growth. In the last 10 years, we have grown by over **7,800** students (23%) and now have 40,862 students who have chosen Catholic education.
- **FNMI success** - Our FNMI 3 year (**50.9%**) and 5 year (**61.5%**) high school completion rates are higher than the province. Currently, **8% of our population** is FNMI.
  - **FNMI Graduation/Transition Coaches** - The role of the FNMI graduation/transition coach is to provide mentoring and guidance to FNMI students to ensure they are provided with a nurturing and safe environment that supports them as they find a sense of competence and achievement. **5** of our **high schools** currently have an FNMI grad coach and **2** of our **junior highs** have FNMI transition coaches who facilitates students' ability to gather to work on projects, utilize the computer stations, work with a tutor, contribute to social justice activities, attend cultural activities, receive individual counseling supports, or attend career workshops. The coach meets regularly with each student to **monitor educational progress** including attendance, class performance and the number of graduation criteria met. The monthly meetings also include **career exploration, planning for post-secondary and supports for entering the workforce.**
- **Graduation Coaches:** All of our high schools have graduation coaches, who work with students to make sure that they are supported in planning their high school learning and transitioning to post-secondary institutions or the workforce. The grad coach begins working with students in grade 10 and then tracks their attendance, marks, and credits on a one to one basis by grade 12. The grad coach works collaboratively with students, parents, and the learning team to ensure student success.
- **Mental Health Strategic Plan: A Continuum of Supports:** Through a National Comprehensive School Health Framework, Edmonton Catholic Schools will create a culture that supports the health and well-being of all students by addressing the four pillars of **Positive Social Environments, Teaching/Learning, Policy, and Partnerships and Services.** This strategic plan will reach children from pre-Kindergarten right up to grade 12 by offering supports in health promotion and prevention, early identification, early intervention, treatment, and follow up.



## Inclusion

- **Inclusive Support Teams** – These school-based teams provide emotional behavioral and social work support to cohorts of schools.
- **Multi-Disciplinary Teams** – These teams of speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, emotional behavioral therapists, and other specialists support pre-K, K, and grade 1 students in cohorts of schools.
- **Learning Coaches:** All Edmonton Catholic Schools have at least a 1.0 FTE Learning Coach. They support programming for diversity, in meeting the needs of all learners within an inclusive context. Next year, each site will have **1.1 FTE** for the Learning/Technology coaching model.
- **Multiple Pathways:** To support meaningful access and relevant learning experiences, Edmonton Catholic Schools offers a variety of programming choices for their students. Flexible, in and out programming, and multiple pathways to meet student and family needs is offered that include but are not limited to:
  - **WIN (Whatever Is Necessary When It's Needed) Teachers: 8 high schools** have one certified FTE teacher, referred to as the WIN teacher to support at-risk students requiring support with programming to include life skills, work study, and transitions. There is also the option for students to choose a **congregated WIN** site at 2 of our high schools, where the students are congregated as a home room. These sites are structured as a cohesive unit where inclusion is available depending on students' interests. Next year, Win programming will **expand to junior high**.
  - **Transitional Hubs:** We will be supporting identified students with severe behavioral challenges by establishing smaller groupings and providing greater supports for their complex needs, including a therapeutic component, opportunity for authentic inclusion, and the goal of return to their community school placement.
  - And other elements such as **Genesis Inclusive Support Transition [GIST]** primary autism programming, **Personal Pathways** (a new program for 2016-17 offered in **2 rec centres** for students who are not responding well to the typical, traditional school environment), and **Dash 4** programming for Knowledge and Employability students

## Faith and Learning

- Edmonton Catholic Schools has faith embedded in all aspects of curriculum and in staff development. Highlights include the following:
  - **Social Justice** – the staff and students of ECS are deeply committed to social justice and action. Last year, schools engaged in **1119 projects** that were geared to collecting and donating of funds and materials, service, and/or advocacy for social change for **126 unique causes**.



- Our District has really shone as we have supported emergent community needs through social justice activities. Our District-Wide Lenten project raised over \$10,000 to support **Syrian refugee families**.
- All of our schools and sites carried out various activities to support the **Ft. McMurray Fire Relief Program**. Our schools welcomed **475 students** who were displaced from their community. Schools and sites collected necessities to meet the basic needs of evacuees. Our delivery trucks made **97 trips to the donation centre** and over **\$7,200** was raised!
  - **District Wide Faith Development Opportunities** for staff such as our School Opening Mass, Permeation afternoon, Faith Development Day, and Grace for Heart and Soul Staff Faith Formation Afternoon
  - **Father Michael “Catfish” Mireau Youth Faith Day:** Named in honor of our first district chaplain, who shared his life and valiant battle with terminal cancer with our students to show them the grace to be found in loving God, this uplifting event sees our **grade 8 students** gathering together to listen to world class speakers, **celebrate Mass** together, and learn how to “**Serve Like a Superhero**”.
  - **Developing Alberta’s Cross-curricular Competencies through a Catholic Worldview:** Our focus for this year is to approach the Ministerial Order on Student Learning from a Catholic perspective. We have aligned the competencies from the order with learner competencies formed through Catholic education and are focusing on building these competencies across the grades and curriculum.
  - **Chaplain program:** each of our schools now has a chaplain to support student wellbeing and the faith life of the community. Next year, every school from K-9 will have a minimum **0.2 FTE** Chaplain and every high school will have a minimum **0.357 FTE**.

## Innovative Best Practices

- **One World...One Centre** supports over **8600** English Language Learners (ELLs) in Edmonton Catholic Schools One World One Centre allows the district to offer space to community partners/services and for district staff to work alongside community service staff, offering a wraparound approach to services and a more seamless referral/linking process. **21%** of our population are **English Language Learners**. That is an increase of **13% in 10 years**. This centre has welcomed **1164 new Canadian** students this school year.
- **Making the pillars of HS redesign more universal:** Many of our high schools are involved in Moving Forward with High School Redesign (MFWHSR).



- ***Learning Deeply* focus on literacy and numeracy:** We have a professional learning plan, *Learning Deeply*, which is providing additional focus on strategies and means to increase levels of numeracy and literacy.
- **Many diverse learning opportunities** for students to explore their passions. Our most recent addition will be an **Indigenous Leadership Academy** at St. Joseph High School. We have also expanded our **Nehiyaw Pimatisiwin Cree Language and Culture Program** up to grade 9 in the West End.