WE ARE CALLED
OF HOPE AND MERCY
DISTRICT PLAN FOR CONTINUOUS GROWTH 2016-2019
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 inclusive 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 • Humanness • Rationality • Justice • Tradition • Sacramentality • Spirituality • Hospitality

Core Values
• Dignity & Respect • Loyalty • Honesty • 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, digitally aware, critical-thinking global citizens, analysts, communicators and producers engaged in learning that is conceptual and authentic within a faith-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.

A DEFINING STATEMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN OUR DISTRICT – KATHOLOS: EDUCATION FOR LIFE FOR ALL

In accordance with our District Foundation Statement, all "resident students and their parents/caregivers are welcomed into our schools. The Learning Team is committed to collaborating, identifying, applying and monitoring practices enabling all students to reach their potential, spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and academically within the Programs of Study alongside their peers. (*resident student as defined by the School Act)
1. Demonstrate the distinctiveness and advantages of Catholic education.

2. Identify, honour and protect our history and traditions of Catholic education through the Five Marks of Catholic School Identity.

3. Provide sustainable opportunities for students to participate in the early learning experiences and knowledge acquisition and the provision of professional learning opportunities to support the District.

4. Ensure that our District Foundation Statement is successful.

5. Support every school and department in improving student learning and achievement.

6. Engage in good stewardship of all resources: human, financial and physical.

7. Continue collaboration with partners on high school programming.

8. Promote and implement District initiatives that support environmental stewardship in our buildings, schools, and operations.

9. Support the opening of our new schools along with the major modernizations and the dual credentialing. (e.g. Plumbing Local 488, Kings, McEwan, NAIT, and NorQuest)

10. Engage in professional learning that ensures we live the distinctiveness of Catholic education.

11. Provide professional development opportunities that lead to capacity and leadership development at all staff levels.

12. Continue to support every school and department in improving student learning and achievement.

13. Involve the Board of Trustees, departments, schools, parents and the greater community in the running of the District.

14. Support the implementation of an integrated early learning approach.

15. Continue to research and consider programs of choice that are aligned with the Ministerial Order on Student Learning.

16. Continue to provide development opportunities to support the learning and development of students, parents, and community members.

17. Support and promote the work of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation.

18. Create opportunities to engage the Catholic community in discussion on Catholic education.

19. Continue to implement strategies related to the success of our English Language Learners.

20. Support the implementation of the Ministerial Order on Student Learning.

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WHEREAS students will study subjects; learn reading, writing and mathematics; and focus more deeply on a curriculum that allows for a more interdisciplinary learning through competencies that are explicit in all subjects.

WHEREAS an Engaged Thinker knows how to think critically and creatively and make discoveries through inquiry, reflection, exploration, experimentation and trial and error; is competent in the arts and sciences including languages; uses technology to learn, innovate, collaborate, communicate and discover; has developed a wide range of competencies in many areas, including gathering, analysis and evaluation of information; is familiar with multiple perspectives and disciplines and can identify problems and then find the best solutions; as a team member, integrates ideas from a variety of sources into a coherent whole and communicates these ideas to others; adapts to the many changes in society and the economy with an attitude of optimism and hope for the future; as a lifelong learner, believes there is no limit to what knowledge may be gleaned, what skills may be accumulated, and what may be achieved in cooperation with others; and always keeps growing and learning.

WHEREAS an Ethical Citizen understands that it is not all about them, has learned about and is appreciative of the effort and sacrifice that built this province and country and sees beyond self-interests to the needs of the community; is committed to democratic ideals; contributes fully to the world economically, culturally, socially and politically; as a steward to the earth, minimizes environmental impacts; builds relationships through fairness, humility and open mindedness, with teamwork, collaboration and communication; engages with many cultures, religions and languages, values diversity in all people and adapts to any situation; demonstrates respect, empathy and compassion for all people; cares for themselves physically, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually; is able to ask for help, when needed, from others, and also for others; and assumes the responsibilities of life in a variety of roles.

WHEREAS an individual with an Entrepreneurial Spirit is motivated, resourceful, self-reliant and tenacious; continually sets goals and works with perseverance and discipline to achieve them; through hard work, earns achievements and the respect of others; strives for excellence and personal, family and community success; is competitive and ready to challenge the status quo; explores ideas and technologies alone or as part of the diverse teams; is resilient, adaptable, able and determined to transform discoveries into products or services that benefit the community and, by extension, the world; develops opportunities where others only see adversity; has the confidence to take risks and make bold decisions in the face of adversity; recognizing that to hold back is to be held back; and has the courage to dream.

WHEREAS graduation requirements, education delivery and standards for student learning are set out in other legislative and policy instruments.