



Let Your Light Shine Forth

August 2023

I am honoured to begin my journey of service as Chief Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools as we celebrate our 135th anniversary! At ECSD, our mission 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. Pope Francis offers guidance in achieving our mission when he says schools should educate students in “the true, the good and the beautiful.”

We emphasize “the true” by focusing on literacy and numeracy, and by helping students apply their knowledge in real life situations. We provide rich learning opportunities so each student can reach their full potential – spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and academically – on the path towards a meaningful life. We also embrace our truth that God is love, and that each person is created in His image and likeness.

We emphasize “the good” by celebrating goodness within our Division and the Catholic Church. ECSD is a welcoming, caring, and inclusive environment – where each day countless good deeds are done by staff, students, and families. Indeed, we recognize the unique gifts and talents of every member of our community.

We emphasize “the beautiful” by ensuring our schools and chapels energize and inspire. Hallways and classrooms are decorated with wondrous student creations. Schools host numerous celebrations showcasing the beauty of our faith and of student achievements in academics, music, art, drama, dance, and athletics.

I am committed to ensuring ECSD remains a place of Catholic educational excellence. We will draw strength from each other as we aspire towards the message in Galatians 6:9, “let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Working together, we will achieve Pope Francis’s vision for a rich student experience filled with truth, goodness, and beauty.

As we begin the 2023-2024 school year, we also begin a new three-year cycle of strategic work with our Board of Trustees’ new priorities: Living our Faith, Learning Excellence, Organizational Excellence, and Embracing Diversity. These priorities form the framework of our [Division Plan for Continuous Growth 2023-2026 \(Year 1\)](#). Each of our schools will ensure that they are building their own plans for continuous growth within this framework so that we are moving forward together in providing Catholic educational excellence to our community.

At the centre of all that we do in the name of Jesus is ensuring that our students are growing and achieving. This happens in Edmonton Catholic Schools through the collaborative efforts of the home, school, and parish. It is reflective of [the words of Pope Francis](#) during a pastoral visit to Assisi in his early papacy: “I think this is truly the most wonderful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with our Lord, who walks among us! We are not alone; we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together.”

I look forward to walking together with you in the wonderful journey of Catholic education!

Sincerely,

Lynnette Anderson, Chief Superintendent