

SPACE FOR STUDENTS ENGAGEMENT



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
Catholic Elementary/Junior High School

November 6, 2023

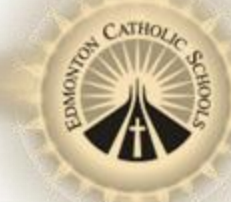
GOSPEL READING

One Sabbath Jesus was at the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal. Jesus said to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor; the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 14.12-14

STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS ENGAGEMENT



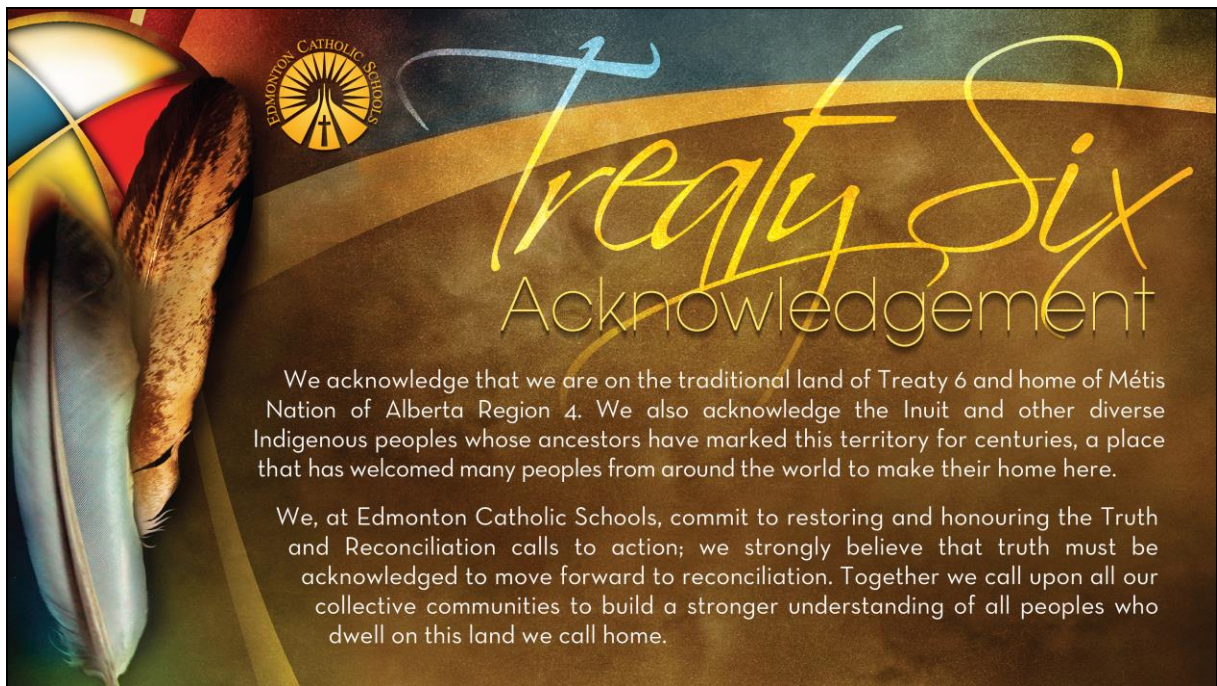
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A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

“One Sabbath Jesus was at the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal. Jesus said to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



As we start our evening together, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of Treaty 6 and home of Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4.

We also acknowledge the Inuit and other diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors have marked this territory for centuries, a place that has welcomed many peoples from around the world to make their home here.

We, at Edmonton Catholic Schools, commit to restoring and Honouring the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action; we strongly believe that truth must be acknowledged to move forward to reconciliation.

Together we call upon all our collective communities to build a stronger understanding of all peoples who dwell on this land we call home.



Board of Trustees
Vice Chair
**LISA
TURCHANSKY**

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Your school board trustee is Lisa Turchansky.

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of your Board of Trustees, I am pleased to welcome you to the Spaces for Students engagement session this evening at St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary/Junior High School. I would like to thank Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson, Superintendent John Fiacco, Principal Jeff Fillion, Assistant Principals Christine McKee, Dan Pagnucco, and Katherine Voth and the other Edmonton Catholic staff for their support with the important presentation you will see here today.

We are here tonight because we recognize that St. Thomas Aquinas is dealing with exceptional enrolment and the current number of students is greater than what the school was built for.

We are committed to gathering feedback and engaging with the STA families to understand the student accommodation needs and to ensure the effective use of space and resources at St. Thomas Aquinas School.

An ever-increasing number of families are entrusting us with the sacred responsibility of educating their children and helping them to grow to their fullest potential. This year alone, our Division has grown by 5.5%, which is 2.0% higher than we had projected. Please know that our Board has advocated for a new school for this area since 2017 as we knew that space would be needed to accommodate the growing neighbourhoods in this community.

The new K-9 Catholic school in Cavanagh is number one on our year 1 priorities of our Capital Plan. It is important to know that even though we will be exploring options here tonight, no decisions have been made, and that any provided solutions are temporary and will bridge the time between when the new school is approved for full construction and built.

Thank you so much for joining us tonight. Our evening is so important, and we are so thankful that you are providing your input into this engagement process.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

1. Balance between funding/fiscal restraints, Stakeholder input and Division strategic plans
2. Not all viewpoints can be included
3. Final decision rests with Educational Planning and school administration



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It is important to note that the final recommendations will not include each viewpoint expressed, and decisions must uphold the Division's fiduciary responsibility. Educational Planning and school administration will take several factors into consideration when they make their final decision.

Even though we are exploring these options, no decisions have been made and that any of these provided solutions are temporary until a new school is built in the community of Cavanaugh.

Our goal for this evening is to provide you with information, and the options we are considering, so you can give us your feedback on the options using the survey.

BACKGROUND

- No decisions have been made
- All scenarios will take effect in September 2024
- Must create safe accommodations for the number of children in the attendance area
- Capacity issue is two pronged as the neighbouring communities continue to grow and students move in throughout the year
- Looking for the best solution with the least disruptions to learning, and focuses on the consistency of programming

JOHN FIACCO
SUPERINTENDENT

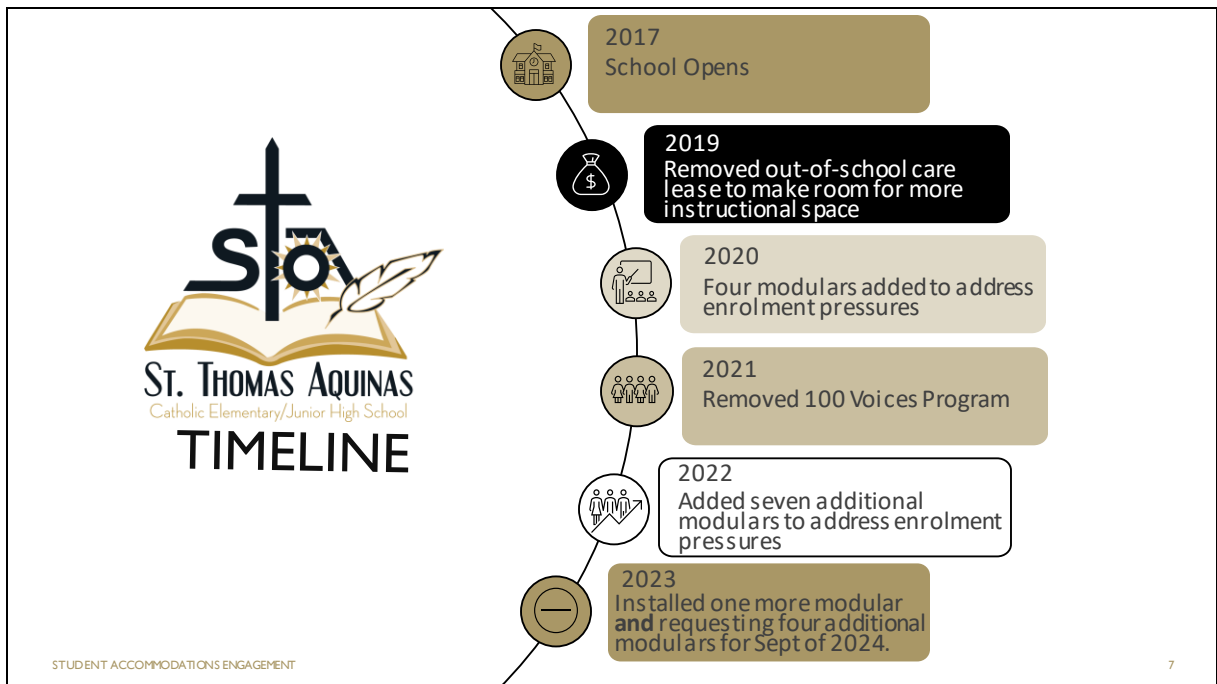
EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

The decision that is made from the scenarios shared on November 6, 2023, will take effect September 2024.

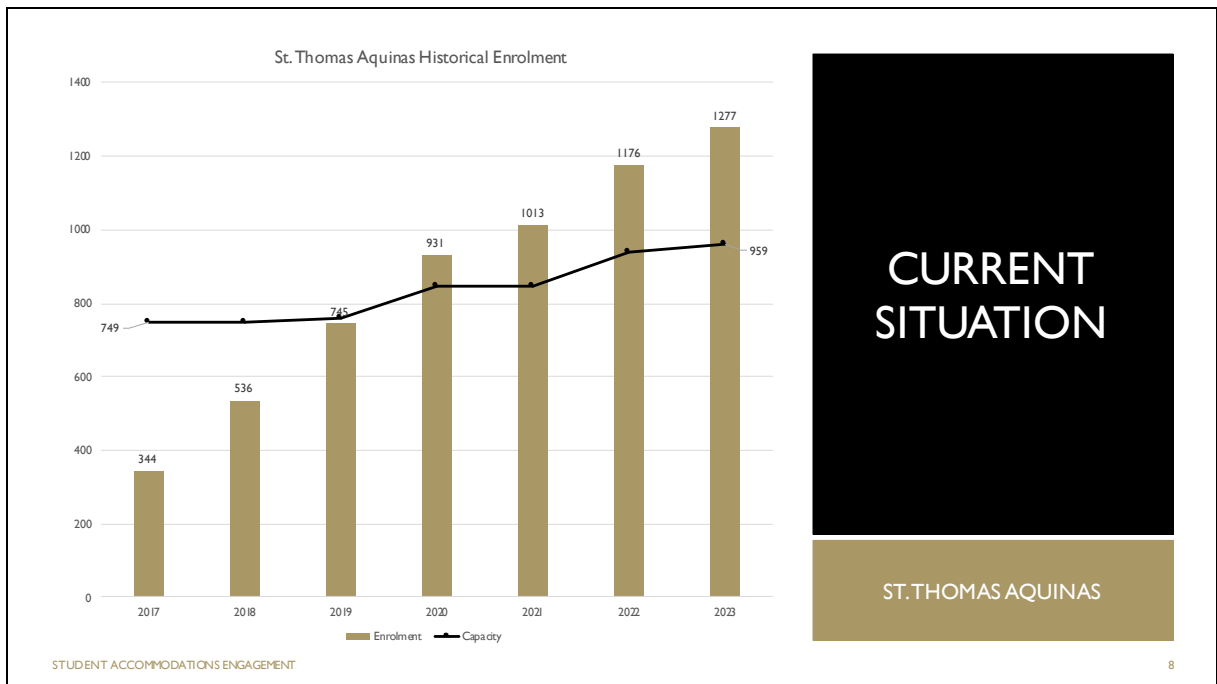
We need to create the conditions at the school to accommodate the number of children that are in the attendance area, and we need to keep in mind the future growth in the area. The capacity issue is two pronged as the neighbouring communities continue to grow and students move in throughout the year.

Finally, we need to find a solution that focuses on the consistency of programming for the students and minimizes disruptions to their learning.

If we do not do anything to alleviate the space constraints the school is facing, STA is projected to have 1,660 students enrolled in it by September 2026. That's another whole school- 700 students above the current capacity.



As you can see here, since the school opened in 2017, creating space for students has been attempted many times. In 2019 we removed a lease to make room for more instructional space in the school. In 2020 we added four modulars, also known as portables, to address enrolment pressures. In 2021, the 100 Voices Program was removed to increase instructional space for K-Grade 9. In 2022 and 2023, we added more modulars to address enrolment pressures. We are requesting four additional modulars in this year's modular submission plan.



Here's the enrolment history of St. Thomas Aquinas since it first opened its doors in 2017. When the school opened, it had a capacity for 749 students. As we added modular classrooms over the years, you'll notice the school's capacity expanded, indicated by the upward trend of the black line. With each capacity expansion, the growth in enrolment significantly outpaced the additional space.

ADAPTATIONS TO LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS TO ADDRESS ENROLMENT PRESSURES:

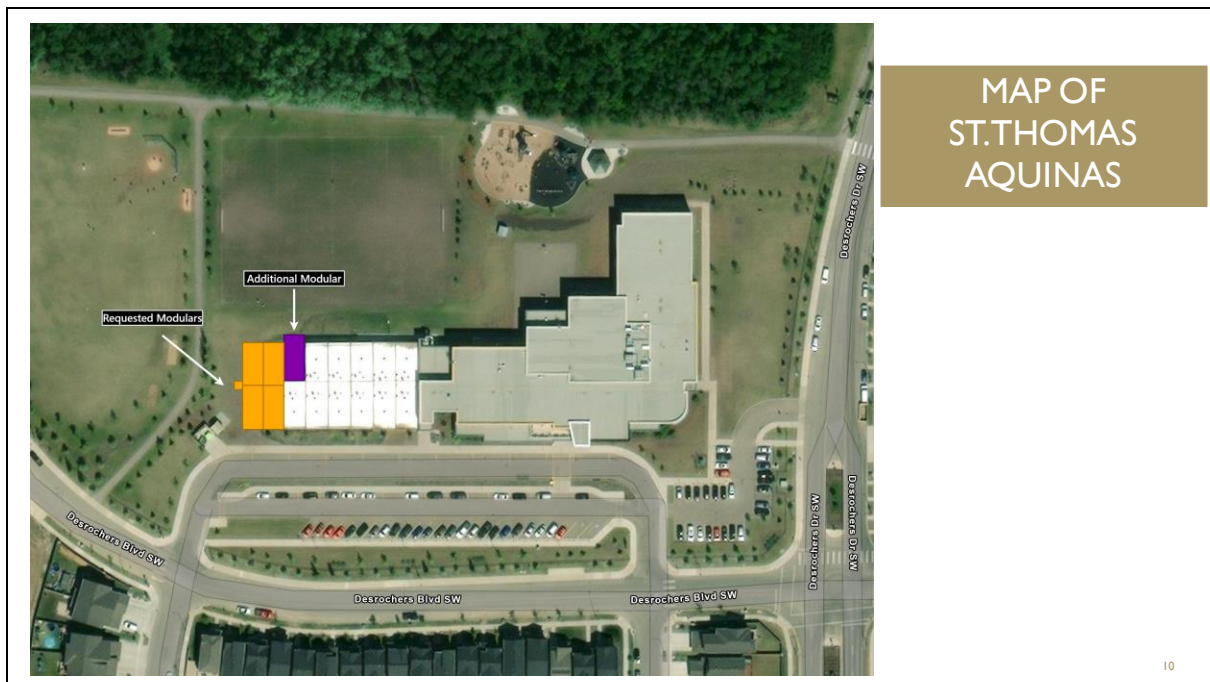
- Staff lunchroom used for JH science instructional space
- Foods Lab is used as staff lunchroom
- Music room is a Grade 3 classroom
- Chapel is a Grade 5 classroom
- Small gym used for non-physed instructional space
- Small gym is used as a lunchroom for students
- Multi-disciplinary staff are sharing office space
- Learning Commons loft used for instructional space for JH classes
- Main floor Learnings Commons used for instructional space for JH options

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To adapt to the enrolment pressures that STA is facing, the school has adjusted the learning environment to make use of all available space. They have made the following changes within the school:

- Staff lunchroom used for JH science instructional space
- Foods Lab is used as staff lunchroom
- Music room is a Grade 3 classroom
- Chapel is a Grade 5 classroom
- Small gym used for non-physed instructional space
- Small gym is used as a lunchroom for students
- Multi-disciplinary staff are sharing office space
- Learning Commons loft used for instructional space for JH classes
- Main floor Learnings Commons used for instructional space for JH options



The school can accommodate 12 modulares and this year they have installed the 12th modular which has increased the school's capacity to 959 students. The Division is requesting four additional modulares this year from the Alberta Government. There is an approval process to getting new modulares installed at a school, and requests are submitted to Alberta Education in the fall of each year. If the request is approved, the modulares can be installed before September 2024.



FUTURE K-9 SCHOOL CAVANAUGH

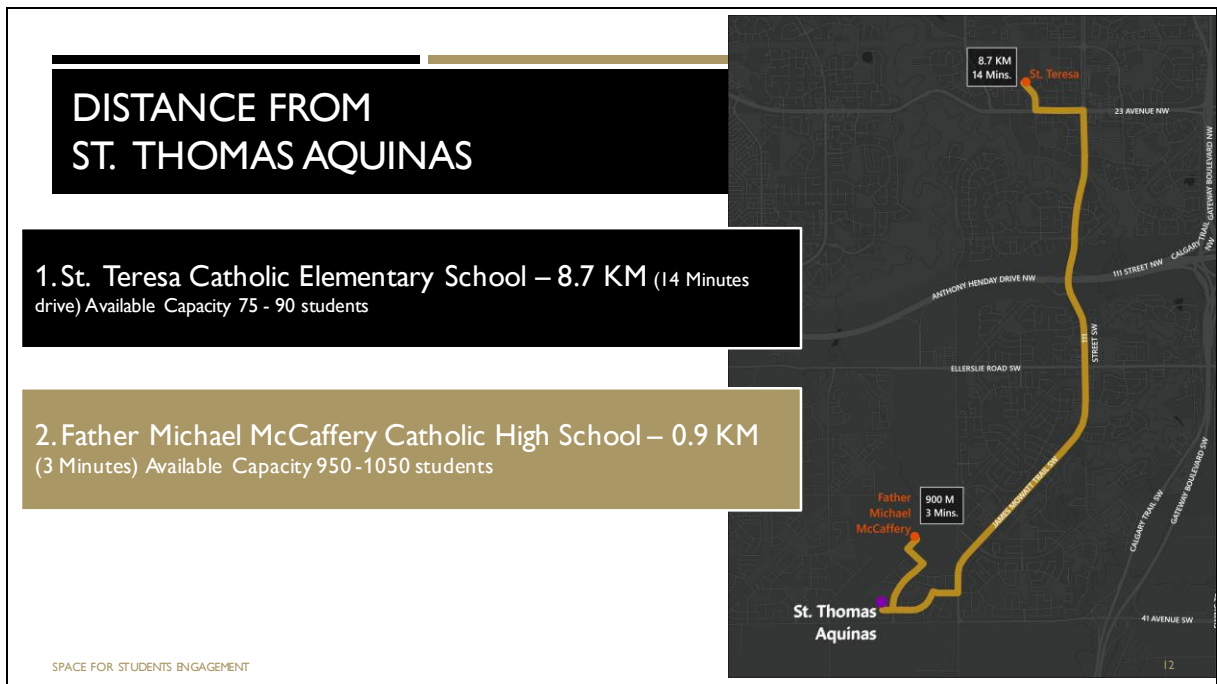
- Priority 1 on the 2024-2027 Capital Plan
- The project received Planning approval in March 2023
- ECSD continues to prioritize this project until full funding is received
- The site is ready for construction
- If fully approved for construction in the March 2024 Alberta Government Budget, the school can be built and opened by Sept 2027

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We know that the schools in this area of the city are full. ECSD will be looking at additional measures, other than the options presented tonight, to reduce enrolment pressures. Additional measures are requesting 4 additional modulars from the Province this November and advocating with the province to build a new school in Cavanaugh.

- The Future K-9 School in Cavanaugh is priority 1 on the 2024-2027 ECSD Capital Plan.
- The project received Planning approval from the Alberta Government in March 2023.
- ECSD continues to prioritize this project until full construction funding is received from the Alberta Government.
- The site is currently ready for construction.
- If fully approved for construction funding in the March 2024 Alberta Government Budget, the school can be built and opened by September 2027.

Opening a K-9 Catholic School in Cavanaugh could potentially reduce the enrolment at STA by 300 students.

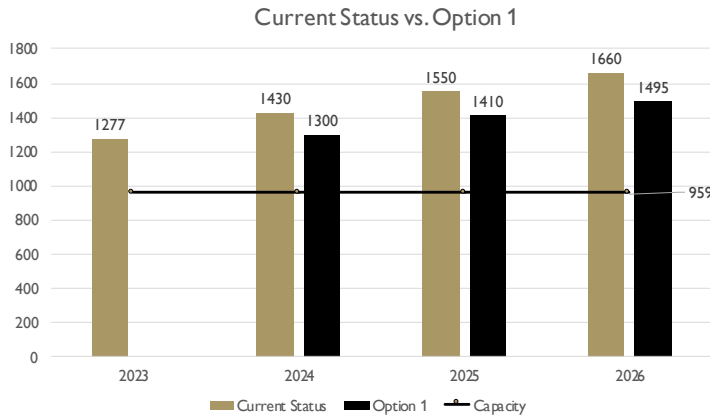


I will walk you through three options we are considering as temporary accommodation options to reduce enrolment pressures at STA. These options involve two schools, Father Michael McCaffery Catholic School and St. Teresa Catholic School. Here are the distances between St. Thomas Aquinas and those schools.

St. Teresa is 8.7 KM from STA, which is an average of 20-30 mins for transportation
Father Michael McCaffery is less than 1km away, and is 3 min.

Again, these options are all temporary measures until a new school in Cavanaugh is approved, built and opened. Our preferred option is to get a new school in Cavanaugh opened as soon as possible but until then happens we can only focus on options that we have under our control.

OPTION 1



- STA becomes K to Grade 8
- Grade 9 students are redesignated to Father Michael McCaffery

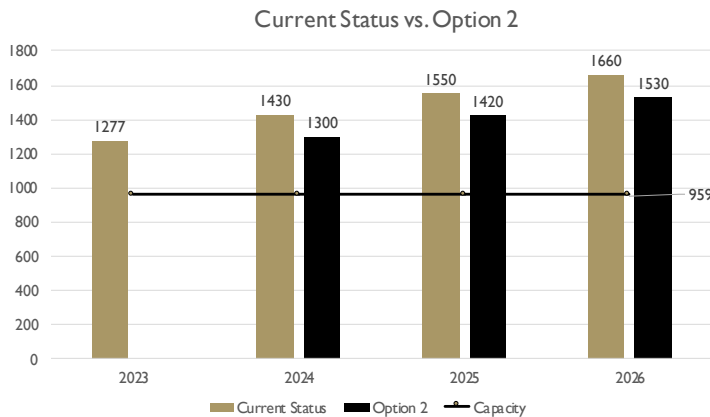
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Option 1

- This option is projected to impact, on average, 120-190 Grade 9 students. We will still need to consider the additional strategies to mitigate overcrowding and request additional modulars and advocate for the new K-9 school in Cavanaugh if we go with option 1.
- This option will see St. Thomas Aquinas become a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school. Father Michael McCaffery Catholic School, a brand-new school, is scheduled to open for September 2024.
- Father Michael McCaffery Catholic High School is projected to open in 2024 at 30% utilization, with Grades 10 and 11 students.
- While McCaffery is projected to be full 4-5 years after opening, we have some space there now that could accommodate STA students until Cavanaugh is approved and built.
- Additionally, Father Michael McCaffery School is the designated feeder high school for St. Thomas Aquinas, so this option to have the grade nines attend Father Michael McCaffery has the benefit for the student as they would have only one transition as they could stay there for Grades 10-12.
- Finally, the distance from STA to Father Michael McCaffery School is less than 1 KM. Students would ETS School Specials to Father Michael McCaffery with a projected ride time of 20 minutes one-way. ETS School Specials in the area serve Dr. Anne Anderson as well and the ETS School Specials would serve Father Michael McCaffery first, and then Dr. Anne Anderson.

OPTION 2



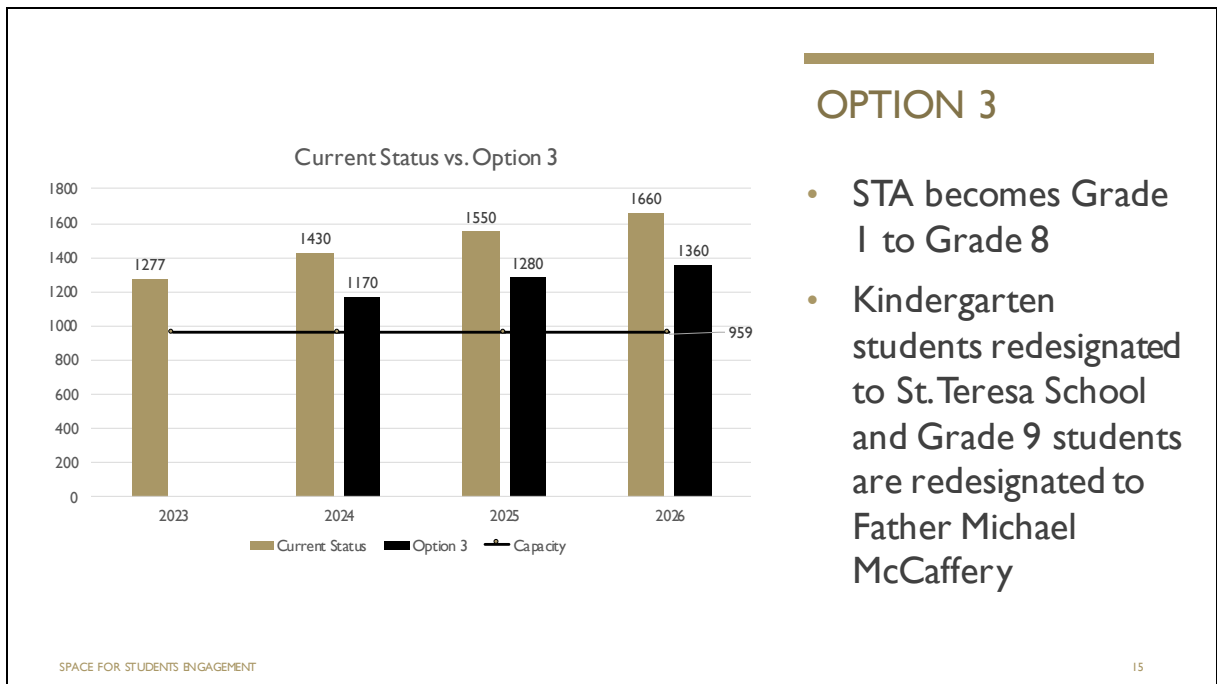
- STA becomes Grade 1 to Grade 9
- Kindergarten students are redesignated to St. Teresa

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OPTION 2:

- Similar to option one, option 2 is projected to reduce students by 120-150. As a result, we will still require additional strategies to mitigate over crowding.
- This option will see St. Thomas Aquinas become a Grade 1 to Grade 9 school. Kindergarten students will be designated to St. Teresa Catholic School, and they will be back at STA the following year for Grade 1.
- Kindergarten students would be transported by yellow bus with a projected ride time of 20-30 minutes one-way.



OPTION 3

- This option is a combination of Options 1 and 2 and is projected to impact 300 students, which out of all the options will have the most impact on easing enrolment pressures at STA but will have to operate at current enrolment levels until more modulars are added to the site and a new school in Cavanaugh is built.
- This option will see St. Thomas Aquinas become a Grade 1 to Grade 8 school.
- Kindergarten will be bussed to St. Teresa School and the Grade 9s will be designated to Father Michael McCaffery High school.
- Grade 9 students would use ETS School Specials to Father Michael McCaffery with a projected ride time of 20 minutes one-way.
- Kindergarten students would be transported by yellow bus with a projected ride time of 20-30 minutes one-way.

SUMMARY — options would be effective September 2024

Option 1 – STA becomes a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school with Grade 9 students designated to McCaffery.

Option 2 – STA remains a Grade 1 to Grade 9 school and Kindergarten are designated to St. Teresa.

Option 3 – Combination of Option 1 & 2. STA becomes a Grade 1 to Grade 8 school. Kindergarten students are designated to St. Teresa and Grade 9 students are designated to Father Michael McCaffery.

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These options are all temporary measures until a new school in Cavanaugh is approved, built and opened.

NEXT STEPS

- Survey closes November 21
- What We Heard Report shared in December
- Final decision shared in January
- Email questions/comments about the engagement to engagement@ecsd.net.



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An Engagement Survey requesting feedback on the November 23, 2022, presentation can be found on our school website. The survey is open for responses until the end of day on November 21, 2023.

It is important to know that even though we are exploring these options, no decisions have been made.

Your feedback on the STA Space for Students Engagement will be used by ECSD and school administration to inform their final decision and decisions to address the space constraints will be shared in January. Our priority is our families and the education of our students. All decisions will be made with this in mind.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

- ECSD is in urgent need of new schools.
- We need your help in providing information on how the lack of schools in the area is impacting your family.
- Collaborate with your school council to help make your voice heard in a factual and respectful manner to:
 - **MLA Rhiannon Hoyle**
Edmonton.South@assembly.ab.ca
 - **Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides**
education.minister@gov.ab.ca

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Lastly, we need your help! Our Division is in urgent need of new schools. You can collaborate with your school council to make your voice heard and collectively email your MLA and Alberta's Education Minister to share your concerns about the impact of enrolment pressures on your family.



Mary, the Mother of God

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (+). Amen.

Let us pray: Loving Father, you sent your Son into the world to redeem us by his Cross and Resurrection. Send your Spirit upon us today to make us stewards of your gifts and witnesses of your Son, Jesus Christ, in our schools and in our world.

We were created in your image and likeness; each of us a precious gift. Through the intercession of our Most Blessed Mother, Mary, the Mother of God, we ask you to protect and guide our students and staff; caring and watching over us at all times.

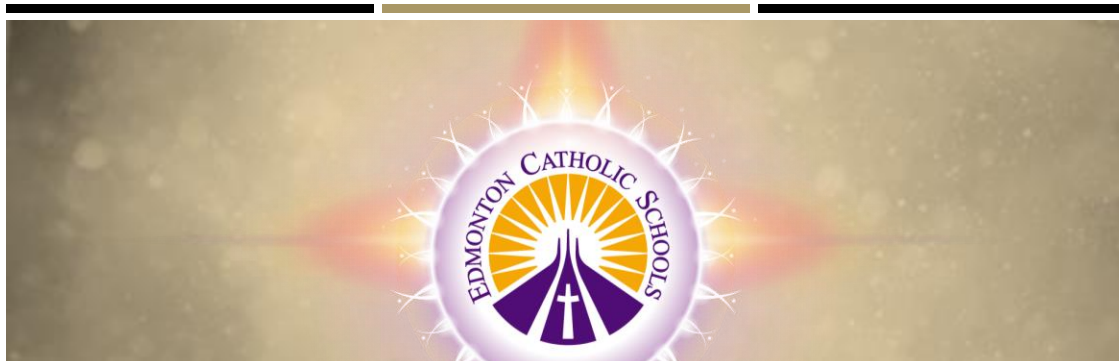
Come live in our hearts and strengthen us to love and serve you. Let us glorify your name, being kind and generous to everyone we meet. With Christ as our model and our teacher, we celebrate and witness our faith, learning together, working together, and praying together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.

We pray this through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (+).

Amen

Edmonton Catholic School Division Prayer



THANK YOU!

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE
YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. (Matthew 5:16)