



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE
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January 11, 2024

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Families,

This letter is to inform you about upcoming changes beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Elementary/Junior High School is dealing with exceptional enrolment growth, and the current number of students is greater than what the school was built for. The school is currently over capacity by 318 students. We must implement temporary measures to stabilize the learning environments that have been put under tremendous pressure due to unprecedented, rapidly increasing enrolment.

Temporary Changes Beginning in the 2024-2025 School Year

Effective September 2024, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Elementary/Junior High School will serve students from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Grade 9 students from the STA attendance area will be redirected to Father Michael McCaffery Catholic High School ([13315 32 Ave. SW](#)), which will open as a Grade 9-11 High School. Students will take Edmonton Transit to and from Father Michael McCaffery.

This decision was challenging and complex. We reviewed the feedback we received from families through the online survey to identify a temporary solution that would best support our students and ensure that we are offering the best possible educational experience for them.

Grade 9 at Father Michael McCaffery Catholic High School

Father Michael McCaffery Catholic High School is located at 13315 32 Ave. SW. The school will open in September 2024, serving students in Grades 9-11.

You can learn more about the school and its approved attendance boundaries by visiting ecsd.net/mccaffery. Timetables, course offerings, and extracurricular offerings will be determined as we make our way through the pre-enrolment process (February 1 to March 22, 2024).

New Catholic K-9 School in Cavanagh

The temporary measures are designed to bridge the time as we await the construction of the new school in Cavanagh/Heritage Valley. The project received planning funding in the [2023 Alberta Budget](#). We cannot begin construction until we receive full construction funding. Typically, once we receive full funding for a project after the design phase is complete, it takes two years for a K-9 school to be built.

This means that if we were to receive full funding (design and construction funding) for the project in Spring 2024, the new school would likely open in September 2027.

Once the new school opens in Cavanagh/Heritage Valley, St. Thomas Aquinas will return to a K-9 school. A new school in the area is the only long-term solution to the overcrowding at STA.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out a survey or attend our in-person engagement session. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) has been developed and posted to the [STA website](#) to help answer some of your questions.

If you require more information on the temporary measures, contact Educational Planning at 780-441-6010 or ecsdplanning@ecsd.net. Transportation inquiries may be directed to 780-441-6078 or transportationservices@ecsd.net.

Edmonton Catholic Schools

