



Faith Formation Plan

Introduction

An excellent Catholic teacher is nourished by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that inspires living a life of integrity, fidelity and holiness. An excellent Catholic teacher gives authentic witness to this relationship through faithful participation in the sacramental life of the Church. An excellent Catholic teacher cooperates in informing and forming their faith.

Faith formation is the very mission of God's church. It is the process by which our faith grows, and our lives are shaped by God's love. As you develop your faith formation plan as an excellent Catholic teacher, take some time to pray about and to consider what the document is saying and what the questions are asking. This is a very important component of your application with the Edmonton Catholic School Division.

Name of Applicant:

Date:

The Five Marks of Catholic School Identity

(Click Link)

Mark One: Grounded in a Christian Anthropology

Standard One: *An excellent Catholic school is inspired by a mission which views all people with an inherent dignity as children of God.*

A Catholic Education mission carries out and continues the work of Jesus Christ on earth. For him, Jesus began his ministry on earth, by standing up in the synagogue in Nazareth to read the Scriptures and outline his mandate – “to preach good news to the poor....to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.....” In the same way, Catholic schools must also share the Word of God and help those in need. A [mission statement](#), or simply a mission, is a public declaration that schools or other educational organizations use to describe their founding purpose and major organizational commitments - what they do and why they do it. For Catholic schools, they have a religious purpose and a religious life, and share a common purpose to educate and form students as followers, or missionary disciples, of Jesus.

Question One: In one or two paragraphs, develop a Mission Statement as an excellent Catholic school teacher. As part of your statement, include a Scripture passage from the Bible and an explanation of that passage to help articulate your mission.

Mark Two: Imbued with a Catholic Worldview

Standard Two: *An excellent Catholic school has a visible and tangible Catholic vision evident in the physical space, liturgical celebrations, and prayer life.*

A school's Catholic worldview is evident in the art and architecture of the school's exterior and signage, the hallways, classrooms, offices, library, cafeteria, gymnasium, as well as in the liturgical celebrations and prayer life of the school.

Question Two: In one or two paragraphs, describe your own liturgical and prayer life. As part of your reflection, respond to the following questions: What is the name of your Church? How long have you been a member? Explain in detail how you participate in the life of your parish? Describe the ministries with which you are involved. What does it mean for you to be an active member of your parish community? Explain how your commitment to your parish community strengthens your prayer life, as well as your faith life.

Note: In order to be considered for a continuous contract with the Edmonton Catholic School Division, a teacher must secure a Pastoral Reference from their parish priest. Being an active member of a parish community is important. As you pursue your vocation as an excellent Catholic teacher, reflect seriously on that relationship with your parish community.

Mark Three: Animated by a Faith-Infused Curriculum

Standard Three: *An excellent Catholic school has an academic curriculum that integrates a vision of faith within the learner outcomes and teaching strategies.*

A Catholic school offers a Catholic-infused curriculum in all subject areas as well as a Religion Program of Studies in all grades that reflect the Church's understanding of the unity of truth and harmony between faith and reason, the social teachings of the Catholic Church, and the spiritual, moral and ethical lives of students.

Question Three: In a Catholic school, Religion is considered a core subject and the delivery of its instruction maintains the same rigor and standard of all core subjects. Faith is not taught only in Religion. A Catholic-infused curriculum ensures the permeation of faith in all subject areas. In one or two paragraphs, describe how you will be obedient to and reflect the teachings of the Catholic faith in your subject areas.

Mark Four: Sustained by Gospel Witness

Standard Four: An excellent Catholic school hires and nurtures teachers that are living witnesses to the Gospel, and intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and His Church.

An excellent Catholic teacher serves as an active member of the parish to which they belong, witnesses their life in Christ through their relationship with parents, students, and each other, and demonstrates their faith through active involvement in the school's Catholic culture.

Question Four: Being a living witness to the Gospel requires a conscious decision to live one's life in line with Gospel teachings. This requires living a life that reflects an authentic discipleship of Jesus Christ and his Church. In one or two paragraphs, describe in detail how you plan to aspire to be an excellent Catholic teacher. How will you contribute to the Catholic culture of the school to which you are assigned. Share how you will infuse Catholic Social Teaching in your role as an excellent Catholic teacher.

Mark Five: Shaped by a Spirituality of Communion.

Standard Five: An excellent Catholic school recognizes that each and every stakeholder is responsible for the common good.

A Catholic school invites its stakeholders to participate in the life of the school. The school has an active and vibrant School Council working with a shared purpose. The school and parish also work together to nurture the faith life of families who send their children to Catholic school. A Catholic schools promotes a strong link between the home, school and the parish. These three partners are connected through their love and support of the child, and serve as pillars for the mission and future of the Church.

Question Five: Explain in one or two paragraphs how you will engage families in the life of the school. Describe how will you nurture the important relationship between the home, family and parish. Provide some detailed examples to help articulate your response.