



Archbishop O'Leary High School
8760-132 Ave NW Edmonton AB T5E 0X8
Phone (780) 476-6251 Fax (780) 472-2579

This is Your School – An Update (November 2018)

Dear Parents and Guardians of Archbishop O'Leary High School Students,

This is Your School – An Update provides students, parents and guardians with information that details the current educational programs, activities and opportunities that Archbishop O'Leary offers our North Edmonton community. In addition, this update provides a platform to reflect on those areas where our school might improve.

Please read through this document celebrating our strengths and if you recognize an opportunity where we can better serve you, as a school, don't hesitate to contact us and let us know. Continuous growth and improvement are part of our commitment to excellence and an aspect of our planning that we take seriously.

As you read through this document, please consider the following questions:

What new educational opportunities could Archbishop O'Leary offer in the future and/or what could we do better with our current programming? What are your suggestions?

The information presented in this document is organized into 6 different sections. Each section briefly outlines the key educational components O'Leary offers and provides readers the opportunity to see how the school engages our students and the school community.

O'Leary is an outstanding, faith-based school that is a lighthouse for innovative programming and achievement. Our students are strong, positive and motivated. Everything that we do is focused upon providing the best possible learning opportunities for them. We collectively want our students to do as well as possible and to allow them as many choices as possible as they advance through O'Leary and beyond.

The world is a highly competitive environment where students are faced with significant challenges, as they strive to enter post-secondary institutions and the workforce. We, at O'Leary, recognize that parents are the primary educators for each child. We also know that learning happens everywhere and anywhere

in a person's life. The more excellent learning opportunities that we can now provide our students, the better prepared they will be when they graduate.

Archbishop O'Leary's innovative programming provides excellence for our students in many areas:

- In Canada – we are one of only two high schools in the country that has a Pipe Trades Apprenticeship Program. Successful students can challenge the First Year Apprenticeship Exam upon graduating from high school in areas that include: plumbing, steam fitting, pipe fitting, gas fitting or sprinkler fitting.
- In Canada – we are the only high school that offers a Production Performance Academy in the Performing Arts.
- In Alberta – we are one of the original 16 high schools in the Alberta Education High School Redesign Project, enabling us to deliver unique programs for our students.
- In Alberta – our Advanced Placement (AP) Program is one of the fastest growing programs for honors/academic students.
- In Alberta - we are the only high school that offers Fast Track Social Studies for Grade 10 students, allowing them to meet the Alberta High School Graduation Requirements, through Social 10-1/20-1/30-1, in their first year of high school.
- In Edmonton – we are the only high school that offers a Cosmetology Academy, in which students may challenge the Second Year Apprenticeship Exam.
- Braided Journeys Program – we have full-time staff to assist Indigenous students in all aspects of academics, peer and family support.
- Our Science courses embrace the skills portion of the Science Program of Studies and our students spend a considerable amount of time in the lab in all Science disciplines. In addition, field trips to the University of Alberta for Biology students and other locations for Physics students are a part of the Science program.
- Our Mathematics courses utilize the highest level of technology to support the visualization of Mathematics and enhance the learning of Math concepts.
- Our academics, athletics, vocations and fine art programs are outstanding, providing opportunities for all students to shine.

The above highlights are all positive initiatives which take the efforts of students, parents, community members, ECSD, post-secondary institutions and our faculty. We are proud of our school and of the accomplishments of our students, but we need to continually look to the future. Our collective goal, plan and vision is to make O'Leary an even better school.

If you have any questions/feedback/suggestions/advice in relation to what we either offer or could do better at O'Leary, please contact us by email, phone (780-476-6251), make an appointment to meet with us, or come to a School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting (made up of parent volunteers) on November 19, January 28 and March 4, at 6:30 pm in Alumni Hall. We also have a May 27 SAC meeting that is off-site.

Todd Eistetter – Todd.Eistetter@ecsd.net (Principal)
Duncan Buchanan – Duncan.Buchanan@ecsd.net (Assistant Principal)
Lorraine Spenrath – Lorraine.Spenrath@ecsd.net (Assistant Principal)
Al Bessette – Alain.Bessette@ecsd.net (Assistant Principal)
Maria Cuciz – Maria.Cuciz@ecsd.net (Assistant Principal)

Did you know? Archbishop O’Leary High School ...

- **Has 1700 students.**
- **Has 90 teachers and 38 support staff.**
- **Offers 146 different courses, including Advanced Placement (AP), to prepare students for post-secondary institutions.**
- **Has won 16 different athletic championships in the last 4 years.**
- **Has graduated almost 30,000 students in the 58 years of our school.**

Safe and Caring Schools

According to the **National School Climate Center**, a safe and caring school environment is one in which students feel positively connected to others, respected, that their work is meaningful, and that they are good at what they do. This component includes providing activities that assist to increase the safety and well-being of students at school, while ensuring that they are learning the importance of showing care and respect for others, in an environment where they are treated fairly.

Activities and programs that Archbishop O’Leary HS is currently participating in include:

- A central focus on culture and climate for all school activities.
- Faith-based learning opportunities in-class and through grade level masses, retreats, liturgies and through community involvement.
- Social Justice initiatives - students have many opportunities to participate in activities to support our Greater Edmonton area community and beyond (examples are provided in the Lifelong Learning section later in this document).
- Student Union activities – include all students throughout the year.
- Student Services - provide wrap around drop-in services for students including: Counsellors, Work Experience/RAP Coordinators, full-time teachers, Grad/Career Coach, study hall, mental health supports, Social Worker.
- School athletic teams – develop teamwork, leadership skills and fitness.
- Peer Support - student led initiatives to support peer wellness.
- Braided Journeys - wrap around supports for Indigenous students.
- Physical Education 30 Camping Trip - appreciation for nature, leadership skills, teamwork, and fitness. Each semester throughout the mountains, in Jasper National Park.
- Physical Education 20 - field trip to Birch Bay.
- Helping students prepare for life outside of school, includes credited courses: Workplace Safety HCS 3000, CTR 2310, CALM
- Fire Drills – practiced safety procedures
- Lock Down Drills – practiced safety procedures
- School Resource Officer (SRO) in-class presentations – i.e. drug education

- School-issued lanyard ID for students and staff - initiative to provide quick and easy visual identification for all the persons in our building (i.e. contractors, agency support personnel, visitors)
- Preparing students for life after high school
 - Planning meals
 - Taxes

Student Learning Opportunities – Program of Studies

This component includes activities that assist students to receive a broad program of studies. Archbishop O’Leary HS provides different ways for student to complete courses for graduation:

- Regular classroom
- Advanced Placement (AP) Program courses, increasing student readiness for success in their post-secondary studies
- Online – CALM, an Alberta high school graduation requirement
- Success Centre (hybrid program) at O’Leary
 - Part-Time Alternative Self-Paced School (PASS) - through Alternative Education, offering print-based modules - 92 different courses available
 - Every Monday and Wednesday evening O’Leary has teachers in the Success Centre until 7:00 pm for students in PASS
 - AERC - Alternative Education Resource Centre Program - 92 different courses available
 - Revelation Online - through Alternative Education - 112 different courses available
 - Diploma Prep – assists to prepare students for Diploma Exams in January and June.
 - Summer School – through Alternative Education but held at O’Leary; many core subjects and complementary courses available.
- CTS 30 Level courses - used for graduation, post-secondary and workplace.
- Apprenticeship Training at O’Leary in Pipe Trades (plumbing, steam fitting, pipe fitting, gas fitting or sprinkler fitting) and Cosmetology.
- For students whose future lies outside of academic study in Science, students can fast track the ten credits needed for high school graduation in Science by taking Science 14 and Science 24 in one semester. This opportunity allows students to spend more of their valuable time in high school in their chosen areas of study
- This fast track option is also available in Math, one semester of Math 10-3 and 20-3, for the same reasons as the Science fast track.

We currently offer our students 128 different courses in the regular program, subject to sufficient interest. The list below does not include the additional individual modules that may be completed in CTS (Career and Technology Studies), which number in the hundreds. These 125 regular program courses include:

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| ● English 10-1/10-2/10-4/20-1/20-2/20-4/30-1/30-2/30-4 | ● Math 10C/10-3/10-4/20-1/20-2/20-3/20-4/30-1/30-2/30-3/31/35 |
| ● Social 10-1/10-2/10-4/20-1/20-2/20-4/30-1/30-2/30-4 | ● Science 10/14/20/24/30 |
| | ● Chemistry 20/30 |
| | ● Physics 20/30 |

- Biology 20/30
- Religious Studies 15/25/35
- World Religions 35
- Psychology 20/30
- Forensic Science 25/35
- CALM 20
- Art 10/20/30/35
- Pottery/Ceramics 10/20/30
- Art History 15/25/35
- Foods 10/20/30
- Computer Science 10/20/30
- Design Studies
- Networks 10
- Financial Management 10/20/30
- Construction 10/20/30
- Mechanics 10/20/30
- Construction/Fabrication 10/20/30
- Cosmetology 10/20/30/
- Career Esthetics 20
- Pipe Trades 15/25
- Information Processing 10/20/30
- Communications 10/20/30
- Fashion 10/20/30
- Physical Education 10/20/30
- Sports Medicine 10/20/30
- French 10/20/30
- Spanish 10/20/30
- Italian 10/20/30
- Drama 10/20/30
- Drama Production Academy 15/25/35
- Instrumental Music 10/20/30
- Jazz 15/25/35
- Choral Music 10/20/30
- General Music 10/20/30
- Dance 15/25/35

Fast Track Social is a unique program at O’Leary where students take Social 10-1/20-1/30-1 for the full-year in Grade 10 and write the Diploma Exam in June at the end of the second semester. This allows the opportunity for students to excel in a strong program in their first year of high school and provides them with additional course opportunities in Grade 11 and 12.

O’Leary also offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses in 18 different subjects. If a student scores a 4 or a 5 on the final exam of most 30 level AP courses, the mark can be used for university equivalency, for first-year courses, at over 2500 different universities in 120 different countries. More importantly, students who complete an AP course are better prepared for, and more successful in, college and university.

The AP courses that O’Leary currently offers are:

- English 10/20/30
- Math 10/20/30
- European History 35
- Computer Science 30
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Statistics
- Science 10
- Biology 20/30
- Psychology 20/30
- Studio Art: Drawing 10/20/30

We are currently working on an agreement with a local university, to use their lab space, in order to offer AP Chemistry 35 in 2019/20.

In combination, the regular program and Advanced Placement program currently offer O’Leary students a total of 146 different courses to choose from.

Student Learning Opportunities – Quality of Education

This component examines activities in the school, other than courses and programming, and their overall relation to student learning:

- Athletic teams
 - Volleyball – 4 teams
 - Basketball – 4 teams
 - Curling
 - Cross-Country Running
 - Track and Field
 - Golf
 - Badminton
 - Rugby – 3 teams
 - Football – 2 teams
 - Soccer – 4 teams
 - Swimming
 - Wrestling
- Physical Education
- Fitness Centre – opportunity for students to access a state-of-the-art Fitness Lab, with fully qualified full-time Instructors.
- International field trips – awareness and understanding of the culture in different parts of the world. In the spring of 2019, students and staff have the opportunity to travel to New Orleans through the Performance Production Academy.
- High School Culinary Challenge
- Skills Canada
- Service Projects – in all areas of both opportunity and need.

Student Learning Opportunities – Students in Need

Opportunities that are currently available at Archbishop O’Leary HS to assist students and parents, in all educational programs, in an inclusive environment:

- Student access to SASSI (Student Access to Specialized Support for Inclusion) - a department that works with students and families to increase individual success.
- Spectrum - student-based GSA that meets every Friday morning.
- Ready access to all staff
- Teachers' offer extra help for students
- Educational Assistants for students
- Counsellors available for students
- Learning Coach who works with individual students, staff and parents
- Very capable and caring Student Services staff
- Social Worker to provide access to external services and agencies
- Alberta Mental Health Therapist who provides in-school therapeutic supports
- Guided access to outside service agencies
- Inclusive environment for all students
- Assistant Principal Coordinator for each student
- Teacher Advisor (TA) groupings that stay consistent for each student, for the 3 years they are at O’Leary

- Edmonton City Police School Resource Officer (SRO) – full-time support for students, families and staff, including classroom presentations on significant societal issues
- Access to an Alberta Health Services Addictions Counsellor as needed
- PDT (Personal Development Time) - scheduled 4 mornings each week

Student Learning Opportunities – Preparation for Lifelong Learning

Examples of how Archbishop O’Leary HS currently works with families to prepare our youth for their future including success at work upon completion of high school:

- Career and Life Management (CALM) classes
- Community involvement
- Job preparation (HCS3000, CTR2310, CTR3310)
- Safety courses (CPR - First Aid)
- Student Union initiatives and events
- Extensive participation in social justice projects:
 - Student and staff volunteers participating with the Canadian Blood Services blood donation drives
 - Run for the Cure for breast cancer
 - Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Edmonton Food Bank
 - Christmas Hampers for the Christmas Bureau and families in our school community
 - Volunteering at the Santas Anonymous Edmonton Eskimos Toy Drive
 - St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive as a Lenten Project
 - Cereal Collection for Edmonton’s Food Bank
 - Daffodil Sales for Canadian Cancer Society
 - Bike-a-thon for the Make-a-Wish Foundation
 - Volunteering as meal time companions at Miller Crossing Care Centre
 - Volunteering at the Edmonton Food Bank
 - Volunteering at the Marian Centre
 - Volunteering at the Festival of Trees for the University Hospital Foundation
 - Music Concert and delivering Christmas cards for Miller Crossing Care Centre
 - Volunteering at St. John Bosco Parish Children’s Party
 - Volunteering at the Hope Mission
 - Participation in the Orange Shirt Day (learning about residential schools)
 - Participation in the Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying awareness)
 - Participation and learning sessions for the REDress Campaign (for murdered and missing Indigenous women)
 - Participation in Hats on for Mental Health
- Peer Support Team (comprised of students trained in leadership and mentoring)
- Holodomor Awareness
- MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) presentation
- Spectrum (Archbishop O’Leary GSA)
- High school completion focus
- Opportunities to learn and improve upon study skills
- Scholarships

- Academic Awards Night
- Athletic Awards Night (Sports Banquet)
- Work Experience - high school credits eligible to be earned by students who are working part-time, recognizing that learning happens everywhere
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) in the different trades
- One-on-one career planning
- School-wide guest speakers during PDT and by individual grade
- Model United Nations (UN) Social Studies Club attending various model UN conferences
- VEX Robotics Club
- Police Youth Academy through Edmonton Police Service
- Pipe Trades Apprenticeship
- Cosmetology Apprenticeship
- Sports Medicine courses
- Post-Secondary Open House – sending students to attend events
- Educational Liaison Association of Alberta (ELAA) - provides information about post-secondary opportunities for students held at O’Leary
- Skills Canada – participation in regional, provincial and national trades competitions
- Fine Arts Nights - Winter and Spring - showcasing the visual arts, dance and musical talents of our students

O’Leary Continuous Improvement

At Archbishop O’Leary HS, we are always looking for ways to improve upon what we offer and how we offer educational programs.

- Teacher Advisor (TA) groupings for all students, these monthly meetings provide opportunities to connect with students and provide a ‘programming check-up’.
- Personal Development Time (PDT) offered 4 mornings a week for flexible programming choices determined by individual students.
- Communities of Practice (CoP) whereby staff attend various Professional Development (PD) sessions immersing themselves in new district and provincial education initiatives, enabling them to provide optimal educational experiences for students.
- All school staff attend specific school visioning meetings, looking to chart the path for the future growth and enhancement of O’Leary.
- Tech Coach mentorship for all staff, providing them with digital tools to offer all students an innovative 21st century learning experience.
- Peer support for new teachers.
- Opportunities for staff to continually examine what we do and how we do it, looking to improve on individual classrooms and programs, in collaboration with the entire school community.

Parental Involvement at O’Leary

This component examines activities in the school that permit parental involvement in decisions about their child’s education. Archbishop O’Leary HS actively promotes opportunities for parental involvement in the life of the school through:

- Career and Life Management (CALM) classes
 - Job preparation
 - Safety courses
- Community involvement
 - Food Bank drives
 - Make-a-Wish Foundation Bike-a-Thon
 - All aspects of our many different service projects that were all listed in the Lifelong Learning section above.
- High school completion focus
- Opportunities to learn and improve upon study skills
- Scholarships
- Academic Awards Night
- Sports Banquet Awards Night
- Work Experience
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- One-on-one career planning
- School-wide and grade-wide guest speakers
- Police Youth Academy
- Plumbing Apprenticeship
- Cosmetology Apprenticeship
- Sports Medicine courses
- Post-Secondary Open House – sending students to attend events
- Skills Canada – participation in regional, provincial and national trades competitions

Please let us know your thoughts about what Archbishop O’Leary High School is to you and your child, and what we could be moving forward.