

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2017 – 2018

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the faculty of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School celebrate spirituality and diversity through achieving, believing and community living in an inclusive Catholic environment. We are committed to ensuring all students succeed and are given the opportunity to grow as a whole person towards the obtainment of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

We, the parents of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School, in partnership with staff and students, are dedicated to our children's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical development in a secure environment, at home and in class. Working together, we attain success by educating students to their full potential.

We, the students of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School, act and learn as a Catholic community. We demonstrate our love for God by respecting each other and by trying to meet the expectations of our parents and teachers.

MOTTO

Living our Vision Everyday

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School has 520 students and 45 staff members. We believe that the Catholic faith, as expressed through Gospel values, is the driving force in the school's community of learners, including students, the parish, home and community, teachers and support staff, administrators, supervisory officers and trustees.

Insert School's Demographic and Contextual Information Here

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, [Insert School Name] is further committed to:

- Deepening the understanding, appreciation and practice of the Catholic Christian lifestyle, with Jesus as role model;
- Aligning a school-wide approach to Catholicity, whereby all educational practices are implemented through a Catholic lens;

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

- Developing students who are fully alive in Christ, not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.
- As a diverse educational community responding to God's call, [Insert School Name Here] fosters and nourishes an inclusive atmosphere rooted in tradition and scripture while:
 - Being authentic witnesses to our Catholic Faith;
 - Being responsible stewards of God's grace in the world;
 - Respecting human dignity;
 - Modelling all learners after Jesus, as ministers of compassion

DUFFERIN PEEL'S STRATEGIC SYSTEM PLAN CORE PRIORITIES

CATHOLICITY

How does the school community model, celebrate and nourish gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centered programs and services?

Learning is at the forefront of all we do at St. Francis of Assisi School. High expectations of all staff, students and the community enables us to strive to achieve excellence. We provide direction and support investments in presentations, guest speakers, programs, the purchase of Literacy, Numeracy and other resources that are reflective of the diversity and learning needs within our community. Students are offered presentations, programs and resources that reflect the diversity of our school, including culture, gender and variation of needs and interests (school colour house system, Huddle Up, Youth Faith Ambassadors, Choirs, School musical, Innovation Grants, Speak Up Grants, Student-driven initiatives & clubs etc...)

The school is further committed to:

deepening the understanding, appreciation and practice of the Catholic Christian lifestyle, with Jesus as role model;

aligning a system-wide approach to Catholicity, whereby all educational practices are implemented through a Catholic lens;

developing graduates who are fully alive in Christ, “not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions”;

encouraging unique approaches to support system priorities and the principle strands of faith education: prayer and liturgy; sacramentality; morality and justice; and scripture and church.

CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

Summary of the school's most recent (2016-2017) EQAO Primary Assessment Performance

- Reading 81 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 77 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 62 % of students at or above Provincial Standard

Summary of the school's most recent (2016-2017) EQAO Junior Assessment Performance

- Reading 80 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 78 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 48 % of students at or above Provincial Standard

Describe how the school fosters the achievement, well-being and continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment.

At St. Francis of Assisi School, a wide range of learning experiences are offered to develop the skills, abilities and talents of individual students that will benefit them for years to come. To ensure coherence and wholeness, subjects are taught in accordance with the Ontario Curriculum, the Gospel values of Jesus Christ, the example of St. Francis of Assisi and educational practices that are reflective of current research. We are proud of the efforts of our faculty towards continuous improvement and a quality learning culture where children feel safe, valued and welcomed while working in an environment that enables them to meet with academic and personal success.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How does the school demonstrate that it values the involvement of community through partnerships and collaboration?

At St. Francis of Assisi School we continue to develop and provide opportunities for community participation in school activities, (i.e. Family Masses, Sacramental Celebrations, Virtues assemblies and other school assemblies & initiatives, Open House, BBQ/Curriculum Night, etc.) We continue to expand and enhance community partnerships with the Peel Public Health Nurse, NPU Officers, Peel Police Youth Education Officer, PLASP, Peel CAS, Toronto Argonauts - Huddle Up and our Parish representatives.

Weekly invitations are extended to our School Trustee and Parish Priest through our SFA Sizzling Moments Communication tool, to all liturgical events & celebrations, Community events such as Open House, School BBQs, School Events and Catholic School Council meetings. Our school trustee, Sharon Hobin, and our Parish Priest, Father Bernard Vellozo regularly attend school events and work collaboratively with members of the community to support student learning, achievement & well-being.

PARISH – HOME – SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

Describe how the school demonstrates strong partnerships and collaboration among Parish, Home and School that are based on mutual respect rooted in our lived Catholic Faith.

At St. Francis of Assisi School regular engagement and active participation of the parish and home are a fundamental component of student success. Parish planning meetings are scheduled with administration. Our parish priest takes part in school events including the community BBQ, School Council meetings, staff liturgies, sacramental preparation, etc. Through regular communication of our SFA sizzling moments (a weekly event planner) our community and Parish priest are invited to all events.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Describe how the school is committed to healthy and safe learning and working environments that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement.

The school community supports and provide opportunities for life-long learning and demonstrates commitment to continuous improvement in student achievement and supports the well-being of all learners through:

- School wide initiatives that focus in on student voice, mental health initiatives, eco & healthy schools (Mindfulness Mondays, Talk about it Tuesdays, Wellness Wednesdays, Think outside the Box Thursdays, Fun-Fit-Fridays)

Colour House system in place to build community from FDK to Grade 8 - students get to know each other and make connections with another teacher adult leader

Development of the C.A.R.E. Crew (Catholic Ambassadors of Respect & Equity) elevate student voice and ground our work in Equity, Faith & Stewardship

Implementation of weekly plan to address Mental Health, Eco-schools, Healthy Schools, & overall well-being in weekly initiatives

School-wide emphasis on the creation of the conditions for learning & creation of the responsive classroom

Goal setting & Transition planning for students to various pathways through My Blueprint / All About Me

- Homework Help Hotline
- Transition Planning for Grade 8 to Grade 9
- Principal updates at School Council meetings
- All Star Reading
- Teachers attend inservices, courses and workshops
- Special Education model values and promotes inclusion of all
- Use expertise of consultants/support services/SAT
- School Council supports school initiatives financially

TECHNOLOGY

How is the school committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context?

As a school community we are committed to the creation of digital citizens who are respectful and responsible communicators. Our goals are to ensure equitable access to curriculum, learning and demonstrations of learning to support the needs of all students. We have committed to supporting the implementation of the 6Cs (Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Citizenship/Culture and Character Education/Connectivity)

As a school community, we engage in the continuous review of our technology plan with the community, staff & students.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

Our goals are to create responsible digital learners who are able to utilize technology to support their learning enabling them to reach their fullest potential.

SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

How does the school encourage the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling?

The school engages in the following activities which model and promote good stewardship of resources:

- Certified Eco-School (Gold)
- Celebration of Earth Day/Earth Hour

Effectively promoting an eco-friendly environment (school-wide recycling program, waste reduction program, conservation of energy initiative)

- * Water Bottle refill station
- * Electronic communication with parents and staff (newsletters, reminders, letters)
- * Weekly school focus on a paper-free / worksheet free day (Think outside the Box Thursday)
- * Staff communication all on Office 365 - no paper copies
- * Student work being saved on Office 365 to reduce paper / use of D2L / use of dropbox & e-learning sites
- * Certified Healthy School (Gold)

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.