

## Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2016 – 2017

Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School

### MISSION STATEMENT

Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Community of the Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School,  
will nurture, inspire and educate our children  
in a physically safe and emotionally secure environment.

We will promote the spiritual, emotional and  
intellectual potential of each individual  
and encourage a lifelong love of learning.

We are Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School.

### MOTTO

Living, Loving, Learning

### CATHOLIC FOCUS

Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School, which is at 2840 Duncairn Drive, opened in September 1998, and was blessed on May 13, 1999, by Fr. J. Wasik, Pastor of Merciful Redeemer Parish. The school, which is in northwest Mississauga, has a population of approximately 515 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 who come from a wide range of social and ethnic backgrounds reflecting the ever increasing diversity of cultures found within Mississauga. In September 2010 the French Immersion Program began with Grade 1 and continues until Grade 4 at Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School. The French Immersion Program for Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will continue at Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic School. The Full Day Kindergarten Program began in September 2013.

Our students come to us with a variety of strengths and needs, with their Catholic faith as their common bond. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, sacraments, and our faith and values system form the foundation of our school. The school motto, "Living, Loving, Learning," reflects a holistic philosophy where religion, school and daily life are intertwined. Our faith in action and outreach programs work to support St. Vincent de Paul, ShareLife, Eden Food For Change, United Way, Terry Fox and Sick Kids Foundation.

Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School stands firmly in its commitment to be a caring, safe and inclusive school community rooted in the Gospel values of Respect, Responsibility and Dignity for All.

*Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.*

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School 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;
- 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, Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School 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?**

The Divine Mercy Catholic School Community models, celebrates and nourishes gospel values in the following ways:

- \* Integrating the virtues program within the school culture (i.e. morning announcements, classroom curriculum, pastoral plan, virtue assemblies)
- \* Embracing social justice and community outreach projects ( i.e., Toonie Tuesday, ShareLife, United Way, Terry Fox Walk, Sick Kids Walk, St. Vincent de Paul, Eden Food For Change, Youth Faith Ambassadors, and Adult Faith Ambassadors)
- \* Promoting positive school community engagement ( i.e., Parent Volunteers, Co-Op Placements, Teacher Candidate Placements, Junior Achievement, ECO Projects, Rosary Apostolate and Community Morning Monthly Prayer)
- \* Integrating the Gospel values and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations throughout our words, actions and deeds as a community while using Jesus as our model

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## CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Summary of the school's most recent (2015-2016) EQAO Primary Assessment Performance

- Reading 96 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 94 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 75% of students at or above Provincial Standard

Summary of the school's most recent (2015-2016) EQAO Junior Assessment Performance

- Reading 88% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 88% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 50 % of students at or above Provincial Standard

**Describe how the school fosters the continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment.**

At Divine Mercy Catholic School we foster the continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment. This is evident to all our visitors, parents, staff and students who enter our school and are welcomed by our sacred space in our entrance way. This is also where we come together monthly in prayer with our community through the Rosary Apostolate. The Divine Mercy staff offer students a variety of opportunities through the extra-curricular activities available, the PALS program, monthly virtue assemblies, outreach programs such as Eden Food For Change and St. Vincent de Paul, and bringing in presentations for Bullying Awareness such as X Movement, Sara Westbrook and Heros Unite.

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Our Divine Mercy Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Dedicated parents/guardians along with the administration and school staff work in partnership to support the needs, values and goals to ensure that each student reaches their full potential – academically, spiritually and physically through a Catholic faith lens. Through the generous contributions and volunteer efforts of the Divine Mercy School community, we have pizza days, school dances, and various academic activities to support programs brought to the classrooms. Our partnership with St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School has exposed our students to the various programs available at the secondary school such as the Gonzaga band and the instrumental music department who work closely with our grade 8 classes. Community partnerships such as the Rosary Apostolate volunteers bring the gift of prayer and the rosary to our students and staff, Eden Food For Change and St. Vincent de Paul remind us of how important it is to give and share within our community.

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## PARISH – HOME – SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

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

At Divine Mercy Catholic School we believe in a strong partnership with our Parish, Parents and School Community based on mutual respect and rooted in our Catholic Faith. We communicate events to our families, parish and trustees through monthly newsletters, email blasts and our school website. The Rosary Apostolate joins us for a monthly community prayer every last Thursday of the month in the morning. We work closely with our pastoral team to support sacramental preparation, have monthly visits for our grade 2 students with Sister Diane and welcome all to share in prayer during our school masses and virtue assemblies.

## 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.**

At Divine Mercy Catholic School we are committed to a healthy and safe learning and working environment that enhances the well-being, engagement and achievement. This is demonstrated in the organizational effectiveness and financial stewardship that is transparent and in support of student outcomes that reflect a high standard conducive to learning at all levels. Our staff provides students with opportunities to promote healthy and safe living through our Eco and healthy schools teams as well as through the PALS and Heros leaders.

## TECHNOLOGY

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

Divine Mercy Catholic School is committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context. We continue to use board digital tools and training to support 21st century competencies to accommodate the needs of all. With the help of our Catholic School Council we have been able to purchase smart boards, ipad, laptop and tablet carts in order for students to access technology to enhance learning opportunities. Staff continue to model Catholic digital citizenship and awareness through board resources.

## SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

Divine Mercy Catholic School encourages the respectful and sustainable environment practices of reducing, reusing and recycling in our facility. Our Eco team runs the recycling club in collaboration with our Custodian Thursdays. The team has gone room to room educating classes on how to recycle properly into the blue and grey boxes as well as encouraging the use of GOOS (Good On One Side) paper. The team also promotes boomerang lunches, using reusable containers and composting at home. Divine Mercy also participates in the Terracycle program and is launching a sprouts and herbs growing campaign in each class as a method of not only growing our own foods (greening) but also promoting healthy eating.

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