

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2016 – 2017

St. Catherine of Siena Separate School

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Catherine of Siena School is proud to be under the patronage of St. Catherine.

We, at St. Catherine of Siena School, aspire to nurture, in partnership with Church and home, the Roman Catholic faith, and to provide our children with every opportunity to grow and develop in faith as lifelong learners so they may meet the challenges of the future.

MOTTO

Many Hands,

Many Lands,

One Heart,

One God

CATHOLIC FOCUS

The St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School Community believes that the Catholic faith, as expressed through Gospel values, is the driving force in the school's community of learners. The school's relationship with the church and parent community is vital in maintaining our existence as a Catholic school. The School continues to provide a very Christian welcoming environment in which all may work and learn in a supportive, inclusive, meaningful, and respectful manner. Within the context of an authentic Catholic learning community St. Catherine of Siena school strives "...to provide students with the opportunity to realize their potential and develop into highly skilled, knowledgeable, caring citizens who contribute to society."

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. Catherine of Siena Separate School is further committed to:

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

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- 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 of 80% ELL learners, responding to God’s call, St. Catherine of Siena fosters and nourishes an inclusive atmosphere rooted in tradition and scripture. The School continues to be committed to the guiding principles of Learning for All: K-12, Growing Success and to Dufferin-Peel’s Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (developed in accordance with the provincial Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy), 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 school community models, celebrates and nourishes gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centred programs and services by:

- School fully encompasses the Virtues program in morning prayers, assemblies, liturgies, daily actions
- School is engaged in Ontario School Catholic Graduate Expectations activities during morning announcements and through the medallion program once a month
- Progressive discipline practices promote Christ-centred approach in finding solutions.
- School encourages student participation in PALS program, SAC, Hearts and Hands Club and other extracurricular activities

CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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

- Reading 79% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 87% of students at or above Provincial Standard

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- Mathematics 55% of students at or above Provincial Standard

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

- Reading 72% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 75% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 60% of students at or above Provincial Standard

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

The school continues to work towards fostering a caring, safe and inclusive environment by:

- Engaging in community building: whole school retreat days, PALS program, mentorship programs through BBBS of Peel and Kids, Now, school wide assemblies, artist in the school and masses
- Continue monthly virtue assemblies, monthly medallion program (OSCGEs), increase Church visits and clergy presence in school
- Continue with PALS program, recruit and train new leaders
- Reflecting on CCCC survey data and identifying attainable next steps

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

The school values the partnerships it continues to have with various community partners to fully support all students:

- School works with the Student Nutrition Program (YMCA of Kitchener-Waterloo) for support of Breakfast for Kids program
- School working with Region of Peel Health Nurse to implement various programs offered by them
- School continues to work with the YMCA program to help the transition of our students in the Full day learning program
- Continue with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in school mentoring programs and Conversation Club

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.

The school ensures that there is a consistent communication between Parent, Parish and School to support Faith formation and Religion Education by:

- Encouraging parents to participate in all liturgies of the Eucharist and liturgies of the word
- Encouraging community to participate in all school functions such as Virtue assemblies, school performances and classroom activities

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-Ongoing communication of all events to the whole community (electronically and paper copies)

-School website has the link to local parish

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 is committed to promoting a healthy and safe learning environment to enhance well-being, engagement and achievement by:

-Practicing fiscal responsibility by monetary distribution of budget wisely, and responsibly by implementing new Fees for Learning and Fundraising policies

-Continue informing staff and using electronic HR forms

TECHNOLOGY

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

The school continues to encourage staff learning opportunities for the use of technology and acquiring tools and equipment to support the use of technology in classroom instruction:

-Continue to promote the utilization of board digital tools

-Promote training for staff to enhance pedagogically appropriate use of technology for instruction

-Continue to implement, monitor and review technology plans (school and board)

SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

The school is engaged in many respectful and sustainable environmental practices:

-Promoting the 4 R's: Respect for self, respect for others, respect for school property and taking responsibility for their actions to provide a safe, caring and inclusive atmosphere for all;

-Participating in recycling initiatives

-Continuing to be an Eco School: the school received Gold ECO School Certification last year and will continue to foster and implement new ECO initiatives this year.

-Promote the use of outdoor learning place on a regular bases

- Continue to maintain the renovated Kindergarten outdoor space which allows for a more inquiry based approach in outdoor learning

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