

## Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2016 – 2017

### St. Francis Xavier Secondary School

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The community of St. Francis Xavier will strive to live the Gospel values of Faith, Love, Peace and Service as taught by Jesus and his Church. In doing so, an environment will be created where cultural differences are celebrated and individual gifts are valued. Together excellence in Catholic Education will be promoted.

The school community will engage in an ongoing faith journey, ever deepening our relationship with Christ. The faculty and staff will strive to share their faith and integrate Catholic Social teachings and Gospel values into all subject areas. They will constantly be aware of their vocation, as Catholic educators and administrators, to ensure the Catholic character of school. They will nurture each student's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional growth, empowering and challenging them to become socially responsible Christian adults.

The students will strive to develop their individual God-given gifts within the context of our school and parish faith communities always aiming for excellence. They will be encouraged to discern societal values in the light of the Gospel and claim ownership of their Christian heritage. The students will strive to be ambassadors of Christ and look for encouragement and love from those whom God has entrusted their lives.

The school community will be motivated by a spirit of charity and love towards each other. We will respect and regard all members of our school community as sisters and brothers of Christ, pledging ourselves to a ministry of service for each other and our community. Christ loves each one of us! We have unity in diversity, being the living body of Christ.

#### MOTTO

Love Faith Excellence Peace

#### CATHOLIC FOCUS

The school was named after St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552), a Jesuit missionary. He is referred to as the Apostle of the Indies, and is the patron saint of navigation and the missions. He was born Francisco de Xavier near Sanguesa, Spain and was ordained a priest in 1537. As one of the greatest missionaries and explorers in the Far East, his converts numbered hundreds of thousands. Our school celebrates his feast day each year on the 3rd of December.

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The school began in September 1990 in a temporary site. After two years, the staff and students moved into the permanent building. As part of the Dufferin Peel portable replacement plan, the school received a three floor, twenty-two room addition. The project was completed in June of 2001. Currently, the school is home to 1889 students with more than 120 instructional staff, plus support staff and a childcare centre. St. Francis Xavier Secondary School offers the IB program and three SHSM programs.

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. Francis Xavier Secondary 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, St. Francis Xavier Secondary 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 school community continues to model, celebrate and nourish gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centered programs and services. Retreats, Eucharistic Celebrations, Food and Clothing Drives and Chaplaincy student groups are only a few examples of what has and continues to transpire at St. Francis Xavier.

Presently our school is embarking on an initiative to enhance Catholicity school-wide by focusing on the blessings of the Rosary. We have partnered with the Rosary Apostolates to support the integration of the rosary in regular activities.

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As we move forward, we intend to focus our efforts on the multi-faith nature of our school community. We feel this unique dynamic is an asset to our staff and students as we continue to grow in our multi-cultural and multi-faith society. The school will build on the multi-faith dialogue that has been modeled by Pope Francis.

## CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Summary of the school's most recent (2015-2016) EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

- Grade 9 Academic 89 % of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Grade 9 Applied 47% of students at or above Provincial Standard

Summary of the school's most recent (2015-2016) Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

- Grade 10 Literacy 86% of students at or above Provincial Standard

School Graduation Rate 97%

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

St. Francis Xavier is committed to fostering a caring, safe and inclusive environment by

- continuing to develop an understanding of the practices of assessment for and as learning,
- continuing to build capacity in providing a spectrum of services and supports, including diverse learning opportunities, courses, and pathways,
- exploring and implementing various learning strategies to meet the needs, interests, and strengths of our diverse learners.

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School demonstrates that it values the involvement of community by communicating with families and other key stakeholders, within our school, such as Social Workers and Child and Youth Worker, ELL , ARD, Co-op, SHSM, and various interest clubs. As a school we provide a spectrum of services, supports, including diverse learning opportunities, courses and pathways to meet the needs, interests, and strengths of all students.

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School demonstrates that it values the involvement of community through partnerships and collaboration. Developing authentic and meaningful community partnerships and community connections, such as Tangerine or Crisis Center, holding community dinners and cultivating co-op placement partners, help to harmonize relationships between individuals and societies. This year our community of teachers, Chaplain and students will be going to Guatemala on a Mission trip.

Our school community takes great pride in sustaining collaborate relationships with community partners.

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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.**

St. Francis Xavier demonstrates strong partnerships and collaboration among Parish, Home and School. The spiritual and social well-being of each individual will be fostered through: Mind, Body, Community and Faith. Our theme for the year is Walking Forward Together – Well Being.

The activities outlined below are based on mutual respect rooted in our lived Catholic Faith.

- Grade and/or group specific retreats
- Masses, liturgies, reconciliation opportunities
- St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Dinner
- Christmas Hamper Program
- Parish Representative on School Council executive
- School events in Church Bulletin
- Guest speakers: Religious leaders, Archdiocese of Toronto
- School website has link to the local parish website and “Our Faith” component tab is updated regularly

## 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.**

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School continues to be committed to healthy and safe learning and working environment that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement by continuing to adhere to the Board’s financial guidelines and policies. One particular area of focus is ensuring transparency in school activity / registration fees. This year we will begin to explore an online payment system to simplify school fee payments for parents/guardians convenience.

## TECHNOLOGY

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

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School is committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners by providing our teachers with resources and time to enhance their pedagogically appropriate use of technology.

The school will continue to improve teaching and learning opportunities through the use of technology by,

- supporting improved access to technology for both teachers and students
- promoting system-wide professional development
- embedding adult-learning environments to enhance teaching and learning through a collaborative process
- modelling current technology practices within the classroom so that students can embrace electronic collaboration, virtual learning spaces, electronic information and storage practices

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- continuing to work with the family to build collaborative practices with elementary/secondary teachers and administrators to share best practices
- modelling information communication technology processes and practices that create safe, ethical and equitable use of technology

## SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

St. Francis Xavier has taken an "ACTIVE" role in environmental awareness and sustainability over the last several years. As a Catholic school we have made it a priority to have prayers on the PA system every day during Earth Week. In addition to this, our mandate continues to be working collaboratively with students to foster an awareness through different events held at our school. The events encourage respectfulness to sustaining environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling by highlighting our fragile environment.

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School:

- Has a Green Intelligence team made up of eager environmentalists students who want to make the world a better place to live,
- Also has a Horticulture team who is excited to make St. Francis Xavier as green as possible,
- Provides every classroom with a recycling bin and poster identifying garbage from recycling items,
- Posts visible posters, in the school cafeteria, for all students and staff to read,
- Holds yearly environmental door decorating contest where students used recyclable items to enforce reusing, recycling awareness,
- Displays a beautiful bulletin board in the foyer with information about upcoming Environment events.

Along with the horticulture club, our school has a Green Intelligence Team that work together to green and beautify the school outside and inside.

Students participate in:

- School ground clean ups outside around the school and the football field,
- Cleaning up the grotto by the staff parking lot,
- Cleaning up the shrubs and weeding in front of the school,
- Implementing our Thursday recycling program.

As a school community, we have and continue to expand the energy management initiatives to maximize savings. We are reducing the amount of paper usage from previous years, and have phased in water bottle filling stations, plus, all classrooms are equipped with sensor lights to go off once there is no movement in the room.

As a school community St. Francis Xavier Secondary School currently holds Gold Eco-school certification and are striving for Platinum status.

‘God created the world and made us responsible for it. We are responsible for “our common home” (Pope Francis, Laudato Si)’

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