

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2016 – 2017

St. Timothy School

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Christian community of St. Timothy School, are dedicated to the nurturing of Catholic values and life long learning through "Co-operation, Education and Celebration." We believe that diversity is a part of the richness of God's creation and that our school promotes a sense of peace, belonging and self-worth. We believe in providing a positive school environment that enhances its members to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and intellectually to their fullest potential. We believe in the development and sharing of Christian values as witnessed in the Catholic tradition. We believe in fostering a mutually cooperative relationship among the home, school and parish to develop the full uniqueness of the individual. We believe in individual dignity, encompassing age, gender, race, capability and culture. We believe in the constant growth in the preparation for the future, while cherishing the richness of our past.

MOTTO

COOPERATE ~ EDUCATE ~ CELEBRATE

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Timothy School is an elementary school of approximately 620 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The community consists of apartment buildings, townhouses and single family dwellings. The original school was built in 1962 and it has been an integral part of the local community. The school is utilized most evenings by the community for both adult and youth groups. PLASP, a before and after school program was implemented in 2001 and continues to serve the parents and children of our community. In September 2006, the doors were opened with much excitement and anticipation, to our long-awaited new school building which continues to be the pride of Catholic education in our community today. St. Timothy has proudly celebrated over 50 years of providing a "Tradition of Excellence in Catholic Education."

The overall goal at St. Timothy continues to be to ensure the well-being and achievement of all our children, meeting and/or exceeding provincial standards in all areas of the curriculum. To achieve this goal and to meet the needs of all our students, teachers provide students with a variety of learning opportunities and experiences that include remediation and enrichment. Continued teacher in-service in the implementation of Ministry and Board Curriculum and initiatives continues to be a school focus. Together, these initiatives will enable St. Timothy staff to support the development of fluent, independent readers and writers, and students who can problem solve, make decisions, organize projects and are committed to and engaged in life-long learning.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

St. Timothy School uses the literacy learning expectations, indicators and assessment strategies recommended by the Ministry of Education and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Early literacy is supported by balanced literacy and early literacy programs. The "All Star Reading" program is supported by many parent volunteers. The staff and community support a variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities including leadership opportunities (e.g. Youth Faith Ambassadors, Student Council, Eco Team, Health Action Team, etc.); athletic teams (e.g. volleyball, basketball, track and field, soccer, hockey, etc.); academic teams (e.g. chess team, Skills Canada, Battle of the Books, Coding Club, etc.); and arts activities (i.e. choir, school musical, etc.).

Our school provides a faith-filled learning environment for all. The teachings of our Catholic faith are integrated along with the Catholic virtues throughout the day and throughout the curriculum. We gather and celebrate the liturgical year and the sacraments with our community through various liturgies by class, division and whole school. Throughout the year, parents, staff and students share their talents and gifts with the school community. We recognize the need for community outreach and through a variety of social justice initiatives, successfully contribute to various charitable organizations (e.g. ShareLife, Dr. Simone, St. Vincent de Paul, Terry Fox Foundation, etc.) that enliven our faith into action. Parents and community members, through B.R.A.V.O., are actively involved within the school as volunteers and as members of the Catholic School Council. Parents, volunteers and student teachers assist staff in classrooms and throughout the school by providing individual and small group guidance and support to students under the supervision of staff.

St. Timothy is truly a vibrant, community-centered school and serves with pride as a model to others.

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. Timothy 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. Timothy 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

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CATHOLICITY

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

- faith education: daily prayer, liturgical & sacramental celebrations, Religious Education and Family Life programs, sacramental and other school/classroom celebrations, including retreats
- virtues education, liturgies, announcements, newsletter inserts, assemblies, school display case
- regular school masses as aligned with our liturgical calendar
- Adult & Youth Faith Ambassador Programs, meetings, and activities
- visible celebration & presentation of faith symbols and icons in the school, including our DPCDSB annual theme: "Walking Forward Together"
- various social justice initiatives occurring throughout the year, as we put our faith into action
- support of strong school/home/parish relationships
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) and Virtue banners displayed in hallways

CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 89% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 94% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 76% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 94% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 92% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 78% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

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

- implementation of Safe Schools Policies, Catholic Code of Conduct, Bullying Awareness and Prevention events, Character Building/Leadership Programs: Student Council, CCCCAT team, Health Action Team (HAT), Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS)
- School Community Partnerships (e.g. Peel Regional Police, Peel Health, Co-operative Education Programs)
- welcoming newcomers and providing assistance to families through the School Social Worker and ELL teacher
- school team approach (i.e. teachers, DECE, ERW, CYW, SW, SLP, Psych, SAT, etc.) to address diverse needs of all learners

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- secretarial and custodial staff are integral in supporting our school's safe, caring and inclusive environment
- Random Acts of Kindness (R.A.K.) Stars program, Zones of Regulation program, Wellness Wednesdays focus on mindfulness, Walk to School Wednesdays, School Spirit Days, Dance for Kindness flash mob, Primary Kilometre Club, Intramurals (Primary soccer and Junior handball), Huddle Up against Bullying program, community events and guest speakers (e.g. masses, Open House/BarBQ, FNMI activist, Aussie X, Sara Westbrook of UPower, etc.)
- staff well-being opportunities including lunch/after school activities (e.g. yoga, volleyball, dodgeball, running, walking, etc.)

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

- continued development of positive school-community relationships:
 - Catholic School Trustee
 - Catholic School Council
 - B.R.A.V.O. Volunteers (Because Real Angels Volunteer Organization)
 - School Community Partnerships (e.g. Peel Regional Police, Peel Health, Co-operative Education Programs)
 - school community events (e.g. Open House BarBQ, movie nights, parent engagement evenings, CCCSC)
 - support of local community businesses
- Communications:
 - outdoor community notice board
 - school website
 - school/classroom newsletters
 - school e-blasts via e-mail
 - school/teacher social media Twitter account @StTimothyDPCDSB
 - TV display in front foyer
 - individual student agendas

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.

- ongoing communication to support strong school/home/parish relationships
- mass, sacramental, virtues and other celebrations support collaboration with, and participation by the home and parish throughout the liturgical year
- twice a year, our school masses are celebrated at St. Catherine of Siena Church
- support of parish St. Vincent de Paul charitable outreach
- announcements for parish events over the PA system; posting of Parish bulletin in school and information section including weekly mass schedule in the newsletter and on school website
- encourage and support parents to be part of sacramental preparation and participate in parish parent retreats
- participation in St. Timothy Feast Day celebrations on January 26th

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STEWARDSHIP OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

- compliance with Health & Safety regulations through regular school inspections
- workplace safety posters (i.e. Concussion protocol, Slips and Falls, Violence & Harassment, etc.)
- responsive classroom design and/or adaptable classroom furniture as appropriate to learning activities, offering students voice and choice with regards to their own learning style
- play-based and inquiry-based approach, especially in Kindergarten
- photocopying/printing quotas to reduce paper use in the delivery of curriculum e.g., geography, science, religion, family programs that foster 'respect for life' and stewardship of resources
- subject specific resource rooms ie. Literacy, Numeracy, Science
- Walk to School Wednesdays celebrated with music and dancing by our school Health Action Team (HAT)
- Ontario Physical & Health Education Association (OPHEA) Gold Certification for our healthy eating and active living initiatives
- HAT, ECO and CCCCAT meetings, including community partners as appropriate

TECHNOLOGY

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

- digital citizenship skills will be a focus as students will be guided in the responsible use of technology using board devices or their personal electronic devices (PEDs) as per our Terms of Use agreement
- through a Ministry-approved grant from the Teacher Learning & Leadership Program (TLLP), our project will integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics (STEAM) education in an inquiry-based approach
- collaboration in developing a Makerspace in partnership with the library, now referred to as our Learning Commons
- Next Generation (21st century) Learning skills will be developed, particularly with regards to critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, innovation and design as students make real-world and global connections through the use of technology as a tool
- continued improvement and acquisition of technology resources (i.e. SmartBoards, tablets, iPads, desktops, laptops, robotics, Lego, etc.)
- student and staff engagement in STEAM areas (e.g. Coding Club, MineCraft Club, Logics Academy, PD opportunities)

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SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

- School ECO Team supporting Eco Schools Gold certification
- school beautification program
- Earth Hour and Earth Day celebrations, and other Climate Action and Awareness practices (e.g. Walk to School Wednesdays, idle free school zone during pick-up/drop-off times, etc.)
- recycling (including batteries and markers), litterless lunches, lights out lunches, ban the bottle campaign
- refillable water bottle fountain with a digital counter to track number of plastic bottles diverted from landfill
- announcements, newsletter, school bulletin board, @StTimsEcoTeam Twitter account
- sharing of DPCDSB Inter-School Stewardship & Sustainable Practices Committee (ISSPC) newsletters with staff
- guest speakers and excursions (e.g. Sheridan Nurseries, Peel Regional Waste Management, Apple Market, etc.)
- cross-curricular connections in Religion, Family Life, Language, Math, Science, Social Studies, Arts, etc.