Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle
2018 – 2019

St. Bernadette Elementary School

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bernadette Catholic School is a community of teachers, parents, pastoral workers, and children, called to work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a school team, we believe it is our responsibility to foster intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social growth within our Catholic Learning Environment. Students will be encouraged to develop their talents to the best of their ability. Each child will grow in respect for all members of the community and the environment. Teachers will endeavor to foster a sense of self-worth and personal responsibility in each student. We are committed to our children developing into responsible members of society who follow the teachings of Christ.

MOTTO

Together We Are One

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School has 275 students and 20 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.

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

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.
• As a diverse educational community responding to God's call, St. Bernadette 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

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**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?

At St. Bernadette School, we work with our parish and our parents to support presentations, guest speakers,
programs and other resources that are reflective of the diversity and learning needs within our community. We
have high expectations for all staff and students, and the community supports us as we strive to achieve
excellence. Students are supported in faith-filled and equitable classrooms that support student learning. The
Gospel Values are encouraged and modeled daily by both staff and students.

Our Christ-centered programs and services include:

- Staff and student liturgies
- Monthly Virtues assemblies
- School masses
- Adult and Youth Faith Ambassador initiatives
- Intermediate bi-weekly liturgies in our prayer room
- Picture books that align with the virtues
- Sacramental preparation / retreats
- Resources (eg. “Where To Find It In The Bible A-Z”)
- Outreach initiatives (eg. angel tree, hat-and-mitten tree, food drives, ShareLife fundraisers)
- Christian Meditation bi-weekly in our prayer room
- Focus on renewal and stewardship through participation in the EcoSchool program
- Student-led morning prayers
- Sacred spaces in classrooms and the front foyer
- Working closely with the parish team from St. Martin of Tours
- Class activities that invite community participation during Catholic Education Week

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CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Summary of the school's most recent (2017-2018) EQAO Primary Assessment Performance

- Reading 74% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 52% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 63% of students at or above Provincial Standard

Summary of the school's most recent (2017-2018) EQAO Junior Assessment Performance

- Reading 81% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 88% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 65% 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.

St. Bernadette School is committed to providing a caring, safe and inclusive environment. We offer a wide range of learning experiences to develop the skills, abilities and talents of all students. Subjects are taught in accordance with the Ontario Curriculum, the Gospel values of Jesus Christ 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.

We have student voice represented through Youth Faith Ambassadors, ECO Club and Virtues recipients. We foster the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations through meetings, discussions, liturgies, morning announcements and Grade 8 awards.

Our PALS Program promotes appropriate playground activities that will in turn reinforce safe and inclusive recess behaviors for primary students and create leadership opportunities for junior and intermediate students running the PALS stations.

We have many co-curricular programs, sports and clubs supported by teachers for students. This allows students to get involved in many school activities that support building a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Small group and individual supports are in place to support social skills development among our most vulnerable students. Our CYW supports our students focusing on the Zones of Regulation. We have also implemented the school-wide initiative of using our WITS for conflict resolution.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School strongly encourages parents and other stakeholders to be active members of the school community through the following:

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Informating parents and community members of special events and school activities through the following sources of communication: weekly updates, school website, twitter account, emailing and hard copies of letters for information.

We invite the parish team, trustee, parents and superintendent to the following events: masses, liturgies, sacramental celebrations, virtues assemblies, open house, fundraising events and presentations.

Our weekly update invites and encourages parents to attend Catholic School Council Meetings.

The School Council supports community building activities like Shrove Tuesday and encourages all community members to attend and celebrate with us.

We reach out to our community supports such as LHIN and Erin Oak to support special needs students.

We distribute Board approved pamphlets sent to us from our community organizations that promote community programs such as: soccer, music lessons, baseball, hockey, etc.

The school and teachers invite guest speakers, police officers, fire department, presenters and performers into the school and organize school trips in our community to build connections with our community partners.

Our Youth Education Officer comes to our school on a regular basis to address bullying, cyber-bullying, social media, cannabis legislation and other concerns addressing the youth of today. Our Grade 6 students also participate in the RAID program.

We liaison with our Peel Public Health nurse for programs and information that reflects healthy schools, stewardship and a healthy lifestyle.

The City of Mississauga has supported our water awareness initiatives and the “Big Crunch” which encourages eating local, composting and reaching out to our local farmers.

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. Bernadette School, regular engagement and active participation of the parish and home are a fundamental component of student success. The school promotes the engagement and active participation of the parish and home as a fundamental component of student success through:

- Inviting members of the community to all school activites and events, presentations, school masses, liturgies, virtues assemblies and sacramental celebrations
- Frequent and ongoing communication through weekly update emails
- Meetings with parish priests to review the liturgical calendar and set school masses
- Posting our Pastoral Plan on our school website
- Celebrating masses at the church and at the school
- Engaging in outreach programs and social justice initiatives (eg. angel tree and hat-and-mitten tree that support families in need, food drives, Terry Fox and ShareLife)
- Parish Representative on our Catholic School Council
- Adult and Youth Faith Ambassadors

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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. Bernadette School is committed to creating a healthy and safe learning and working environment that enhances student and staff well being, engagement and achievement through the following ways:

- School-wide emphasis on creating the conditions for learning & the responsive classroom
- Goal setting & transition planning for students to various pathways through My Blueprint / All About Me
- Transition Planning for Grade 8 to Grade 9
- Teachers attend inservices, courses and workshops
- Special Education model values and promotes inclusion of all
- Safety Plans created and monitored by Spec. Ed. Staff and Board support teams
- Active involvement of support services staff (CYW, social worker, psychologist)
- Use expertise of consultants/support services/IST/EGELT
- School-wide implementation of WITS
- Health and Safety initiatives including regular inspections
- Training and development in: First Aid, CPI, Defibrillator, Stryker Chair, Workplace Violence and Harassment, Accessability, WHMIS, Emergency Response, Asthma and Anaphalaxis
- ECO Team that promotes and monitors energy conservation initiatives
- PALS program
- Bus safety presentations
- Youth Education Officer visits
- Prayer Room that encourages staff and students the opportunity for meditation and self-reflection

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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 and demonstrations of learning to support the needs of all students. We are committed to supporting and addressing the technology needs of all of our learners in a global context through the following:

- Increased use of online communication tools (eg. Google Classroom)
- Use the Board resources personnel such as the IST and EGELT to provide PD sessions for staff
- Align financial resources to purchase new technologies and programs to support teaching and learning
- Use of PEDs as a learning tool in instruction and curriculum
- Using Twitter and email to inform the school community of activities and events at the school
- Youth Education Officer speaks to the students about digital citizenship and internet safety
- Special Equipment Grants for students with special needs to allow them access to technology for learning
- Portable iPad and Chromebook carts
- SMARTBoards in every classroom

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SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

To model and promote good stewardship of resources, St. Bernadette engages in the following activities:

- Participation in Eco School initiative and certification as an Eco School Gold level
- Our ECO Team implements eco-friendly initiatives such as litterless/boomerang lunches, lights off Fridays, the recycling program, energy conservation focused announcements (ie: turning off light, GOOSE paper)
- Special guest speakers (eg. Wiggly Worms)
- Participation in a recycling programs - fine paper, batteries, light bulbs, cartridges, blue bin programs
- An increase of electronic communication with staff & parents reduces paper consumption
- Electronic staff communication through SharePoint and email
- Increased use of D2L and e-learning websites
- Fish painting at sewers in our neighbourhood
- School yard clean-up in the Spring
- Planting in our Peace Garden and FDK yard
- Participation in the “Big Crunch” and the “Big Gulp”
- Encouragement for staff and students to use reusable containers to reduce water bottles
- Active involvement of our CYW in promoting positive well-being and mental health
- Celebration of Earth Day / Earth Hour