

## Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2018 – 2019

St. Jerome Catholic School

### MISSION STATEMENT

Motivated by a quest for knowledge and understanding, inspired by faith and impelled by God's call to love, students will discover their potential and utilize their God-given talents to work respectfully and co-operatively.

Empowered with a positive sense of self-esteem, our students will be encouraged to live fully and to use their talents in service to the community of God's people, thereby making the world a better place.

St. Jerome School, in partnership with family and church, provides a spiritual journey into Catholic education which fosters spiritual and intellectual growth rooted in the gospel teachings of Christ.

### MOTTO

Living and Learning in Faith

### CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Jerome Catholic School is located at 790 Paisley Blvd. West, this is the Huron Park area of Mississauga. The school was established in 1981 and was blessed on May 17, 1982 by Most Rev. M. Pearse Lacey of St. Martin of Tours Parish. St. Jerome Catholic School has a population of approximately 278 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. The school is named after St. Jerome, a great biblical scholar who lived during the fourth century and is called a Father and a Doctor of the Church. One of his famous sayings is "Now we have to translate the words of Scripture into deeds: instead of talking of holy things, we must enact them."

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 and Learning in Faith" reflects a holistic philosophy where religion, school and daily life are intertwined. Our faith in action and outreach social justice programs work to support St. Vincent de Paul, ShareLife, Christmas Mitten Tree, Dr. Simone through donation drives, Sleeping Children Around the World Shoebox for School Supplies Campaign.

The St. Jerome Catholic School strives to be Christ-centered so that all may work and learn in a safe, supportive, inclusive and respectful environment. St. Jerome Catholic School strives to provide students with the opportunity to realize their full potential and develop into skilled, knowledgeable, caring citizens who contribute positively to society.

*Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.*

It is our hope that our graduates are:

Discerning Believers

Effective Communicators

Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinkers

Self-directed, Responsible, Life-long Learners

Collaborative Contributors

Caring Family Members

And Responsible Citizens.

We believe that the Catholic Faith, as expressed through Gospel Values, is the driving force in our community of learners. Together with our students, staff, parents, our trustee and our local community we strive to create a strong connection between the school, home and parish, so that we can offer our students a faith filled learning environment where all are welcome, respected and appreciated for the gifts and talents that they share.

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. Jerome Catholic 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. Jerome Catholic 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 St. Jerome Catholic School Community models, celebrates and nourishes gospel values in the following ways:

*Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.*

- \* Integrating the virtues program within the school culture (i.e. morning announcements, classroom curriculum, monthly assemblies, pastoral plan)
- \* Students participate every morning in prayer liturgy, where we emphasize scripture readings and the significance of the liturgical calendar
- \* Embracing social justice and community outreach projects (i.e., ShareLife, Terry Fox Walk, St. Vincent de Paul, Food Drives at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, Youth Faith Ambassadors, and Adult Faith Ambassadors)
- \* Promoting positive school community engagement (i.e., Parish Priests, Trustee, Parent Volunteers, Co-Op Placements, Teacher Candidate Placements, ECO Projects, liaison with Peel Police and Peel Health Nurse)
- \* Integrating the Gospel values and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations through words, actions and deeds as a community while using Jesus as our model
- \* Connect scripture to modern day contexts and incorporate scripture into our everyday actions
- \* Celebrate as a school community four school masses annually, Opening of the School Year, Advent, Lent and End of School Year at St. Jerome School or St. Martin of Tours Parish
- \* Celebrate masses for the sacrament of First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Grade 8 Graduation
- \* Celebrate liturgies as a school community for Remembrance Day, Ash Wednesday and the Crowning of Mary

## CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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

- |               |                                                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| • Reading     | 80% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing     | 88% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 64% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

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

- |               |                                                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| • Reading     | 95% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing     | 90% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 67% 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.**

At St. Jerome 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. The St. Jerome staff offer students a variety of opportunities through the extra-curricular activities available, the PALS program, monthly virtues assemblies, outreach programs such as Food Drives, Dr. Simone donations, ShareLife, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Terry Fox Walk and St. Vincent de Paul, as well as, having presentations for Bullying Awareness from Dreams For Peace and our Youth Education Officer. The Mississauga South Youth Faith Rally provides students the opportunity for greater awareness about social justice and how as a school we can respond to the call. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors are faith leaders within our school. They lead many faith based activities for our students, for example, liturgies as well as bullying prevention and social justice initiatives.

*Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.*

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Our St. Jerome 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, emotionally and physically through a Catholic Faith lens. Through the generous contributions and volunteer efforts of the St. Jerome Catholic School community, we have Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day for the whole school, our Community Family BBQ, and other various activities to support programs brought to the classrooms. Our partnership with St. Martin Secondary School has exposed our students to the various programs available at the local secondary school. Their staff attended our St. Jerome Catholic School Open House evening in September to give a presentation to our grade 8 students and their parents, and they have visited our students to speak about the regional sports program at St. Martin Secondary School. Our grade 8 transition with secondary is supported by our grade 8 students visiting St. Martin Secondary School. Community partnerships such as Food Drives, Christmas Mitten Tree and St. Vincent de Paul remind us of how important it is to give and share within our community. Monthly newsletters and email updates are regularly shared with our families. Other community partners we work collaboratively with are: School Resource Officers, Youth Education Officer, Region of Peel Public Health Nurse (staying healthy initiatives/PALS), St. Martin Secondary School, City of Mississauga Parks and Recreation for “Swim to Survive” and the Ministry of Education/Board initiatives to build and sustain an appreciation for our environment and ensure ECO school status.

## 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. Jerome 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 trustee through monthly newsletters, email blasts and our school website. We work closely with our pastoral team to support sacramental preparation, and welcome all to share in prayer during our school masses at the school and church. As a community in prayer, we come together to celebrate the St. Jerome feast day, September 30, through our opening school mass in September. We also come together as a community at our annual family BBQ which is a joint venture with St. Martin Secondary School. We also have strong parish and OAPCE representation on our Catholic School Council. We are truly blessed to be a part of the St. Martin of Tours Parish and to have such a strong pastoral team as our spiritual leaders.

## 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 St. Jerome Catholic School we are committed to offering our students the best learning environment possible and to teaching our students to be stewards of the earth. We are committed to a healthy and safe learning and working environment that enhances 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

*Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.*

promote healthy and safe living through our Eco and healthy schools team in monitoring waste and conducting waste audits, the Big Gulp, the Big Crunch, promoting recycling in all classrooms and through the PALS program. We promote healthy living choices by implementing initiatives by Peel Health in support of OPHEA Healthy Schools programs.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

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

St. Jerome 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. We have made technology a priority in our school by purchasing SMART board technology, iPad, laptop cart and Chrome Tech Tubs in order for students to access technology to enhance learning opportunities. All classrooms at St. Jerome Catholic School are equipped with SMART board technology and our portables each have a proxima. 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?**

St. Jerome Catholic School is a Gold certified ECO School. St. Jerome Catholic School encourages the respectful and sustainable environment practices of reducing, reusing and recycling in our school. Our ECO Team carries out many initiatives throughout the year. They encourage recycling, community and yard clean-up days and undertake projects to promote the beautification of the natural environment on and around our school. The team has made announcements and included in our school newsletter how to help our planet and how to be good stewards of our earth, to recycle properly into the blue boxes and encouraging the use of GOOS (Good On One Side) paper. The team also promotes litterless lunches by using reusable containers and composting at home. St. Jerome Catholic School also participates in celebrating Earth Hour and Earth Day, planting and greening projects and enjoying our active outdoor Kindergarten space. The ECO Team encourages staff and students to bring reusable water bottles to school and refill them at our water filling station.

*Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.*