Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle
2018 – 2019

St. Marcellinus Secondary School

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Marcellinus Secondary School is a community built on the teachings of our Catholic faith that encourages all the members of its community to strive for personal and spiritual success while living the Gospel values.

- We value the whole student, nurturing the vitality and strength of mind, body and spirit.
- We advocate for social justice and equality.
- We excel in academia, the arts, technology and sport.
- We embrace the Holy Spirit and celebrate the teachings of the Gospel.

MOTTO

“Let Every Spirit Soar!”

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Marcellinus Secondary School was established in September of 2003, with one principal, John McAllister and a staff of 12 teachers that were hired. The school opened with 143 grade 9 students in a temporary location in Streetsville. In September of 2004, the school moved to its new permanent facility at the corner of Mavis Road and Courtneypark Drive West. This state of the art school is part of a shared facility agreement with the City of Mississauga. It includes the second largest library in the City of Mississauga and a track and field complex that boasts an artificial field and an eight lane all weather track; the only one of its kind in the region of Peel.

In its short history, St. Marcellinus Secondary School has established itself as a school that stresses academic excellence and athletic prowess with a wide variety of clubs and arts activities. Our school motto is “Let Every Spirit Soar” and we live it every day.

Presently we are a school with a principal, three vice-principals and a staff of 150, with a current student population of 1802 students. We are known as the “Spirit” and remain a community that is rooted in Christ. With the Grace of our Lord, the Holy Spirit will be the guiding light as we strive to bring our students closer to Jesus. Let

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it be known that, at St. Marcellinus Secondary School, Christ is the reason for our school. He is the unseen, but ever present teacher in our classrooms. He is the model for our staff and the inspiration for our students.

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

St. Marcellinus models, celebrates and nourishes gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centered programs and services in the following way:

- Christ as our model teacher
- School staff and chaplaincy leaders model strong faith connections
- Chaplaincy Team which includes students, staff, parish and community representatives
- Priest visits

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- Department activities and/or events infuse Catholic teaching, faith formation, and Catholic culture into the curriculum

- Catholic Code of Conduct

- Homeroom grade level retreats, student council retreat, and chaplaincy retreat

- Visible signs of Catholicity: Chapel, Stained glass window on the doors of each of the religion classrooms that depict each of the sacraments, Paschal Mysteries, crucifixes, banners, and Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations Mural.

- Sacred space in classrooms

- Daily school wide prayer and reflections which also happen throughout classes, athletic events, and co-curricular activities

- Weekly Rosary Club in the Chapel

- Social Justice Initiatives: Family Faith Night; Food Drives; Sharelife Drive; Christmas Baskets; Out of the Cold; Eco Club Initiatives, Clothing Drive i.e. Take Your Shirt Off Your Back Day, etc.

- Liturgical celebrations for Grade 8 Transitions Day, Remembrance Day, Advent, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Crowning of Mary

- Adult Faith Development Opportunities and Liturgy for Staff

- School wide masses for Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent, start and end of school year

- Sacramentality of Reconciliation during Lent

- Music Ministry

- ARD Movie Night

- Department Heads participating in Leadership Gatherings

- PIP Lunch Program

- Championship Chapel Visits

- Mental Health Chaplaincy Visits to Elementary Schools with Guidance Counsellors

- Alpha Club

- March for Life

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CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Summary of the school's most recent (2017-2018) EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

- Grade 9 Academic 94% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Grade 9 Applied 81% of students at or above Provincial Standard

Summary of the school's most recent (2017-2018) Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

- Grade 10 Literacy 89% 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.

We foster the continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment. Knowing the learner is our primary focus. Our goal is to maintain high academic status for both OSSLT and EQAO tests, therefore, all teachers work collaboratively to be teachers of literacy and numeracy. The Spirit Way Committee (CCCCAT) will continue to analyze the School Climate Survey to inform the next steps. We will continue to recognize Health and Wellness Week in November and through Wellness Civvies Day contribute to the ongoing financial needs to support wellness initiatives and student needs. Recognizing that student well being requires collaborative efforts between parents, school, parish and community resource agencies, our Parent Engagement Events will continue. Finally, in the wisdom of the Church, we will share practices that help support mental well being.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

St. Marcellinus S.S. continues to strengthen school-community partnerships. We host a variety of events with open invitation to our community at large such as: Friday Night Lights football and soccer games, Family Faith Night, Arts Night, Special Events Athletics and Multicultural Night. Almost every department is in an active partnership with a community business or agency as follows: Chaplaincy and Religion with the Archdiocese of Toronto, Wells of Hope, Office of Catholic Youth, Dr. Simone, Sojourn House, and St. Vincent de Paul; Athletics with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE); Business with Chambers of Commerce and DECA; ARD with Community Living, Best Buddies; Technology with Peel Health; Social Science with Credit Valley Conservation Authority and Safe City Mississauga; and Guidance and Careers with universities, colleges and apprenticeships. We continue to strengthen our relationship with our business partners through Co-op placements and the Arts and Culture and Culinary Arts SHSM experiential learning. We continue to collaborate with one of our most prominent partnerships – the City of Mississauga Library and Parks and Recreation. Finally, our School Resource Officers (Peel Police) play a role in educating our students, team building and social justice activities.

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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.

We demonstrate strong partnerships and collaboration through our relationship with our parish, St. Francis Xavier. Our Pastoral Planning Team works closely with Pastor Fr. James Cherickal, Associate Pastor Fr. Jim Zettel and Youth Minister Roberta Skoko and School Council to build a network connecting home, school and parish communication and encourage team building. Our Pastor James Cherickal, Associate Pastor and Youth Minister are invited into the classrooms as a guest speaker about relevant topics that connect curriculum and our Catholic faith. We are developing open dialogue, strong relationship and opportunities for growth between the triad. We celebrate masses with Father James Cherickal, reconciliation twice a year, adult faith development opportunities, yearly Vocations Day in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Toronto and host a yearly Youth Ministry Training Symposium for the Archdiocese in our school. Furthermore, there is ongoing communication with our School Trustees who also attend various school events throughout the year such as our masses, Academic Award Ceremony and Graduation Commencement to name a few.

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. Marcellinus S.S. community nourishes the God-given gifts and talents of each student. We are proud of the physical space, especially the collaborative work that resulted in the surrounding stained glass in our chapel and school façade. The constant light that enters our school is essentially the light of God that reminds us to exercise Christian leadership, achieve excellence, think critically about Christian vocation, the dignity of work and any work which contributes to the common good. We do this inherently through our Specialist High Skills Major Programs which mandate experiential learning so that students apply skills for employability, self-employment and entrepreneurship relative to Christian vocation. Through the Stained Glass classes, our students with exceptionalities are working hard to create beautiful ornaments to be shared with the community. Furthermore, we continue to strengthen our collaborative efforts with families and Community Living to prepare our learners in the Planning for Independence (seven year) Program for transition from school to a workplace. There are many other ways we have demonstrated commitment in providing students with opportunities to be collaborative contributors in society. Recently, students have completed the first phase of and creation of a green space with native shrubs/perennials and it is encouraged to be used by anyone as a meditative space as well as an outdoor classroom setting. The Ecoclub is working towards strategic placement of recycling and garbage bins as well as the decrease use of plastic water bottles at key events. The Ecoclub is also a regular participant in the City of Mississauga’s Million Tree Initiative to increase the canopy in the local community and reports results of audits to staff and the school community at School Council. Our Social Justice Club is running strong with a mandate to promote the principles of social, environmental and economic justice. Furthermore, a model UN group, through collaboration with SOMA (Southern Ontario Model United Nations Academy) which identifies with diplomacy and the safe-guarding of human rights has been established. All of these clubs provide for students of Catholic social teaching.

TECHNOLOGY

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

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Teachers incorporate the uses of technology in the classroom in order to enhance student engagement in the learning process and to improve student achievement. With the implementation of students using their own personal electronic devices, it is imperative to emphasize to students the importance of digital citizenship. Working in partnership with our School Resource Officers and technology consultants, our students have opportunities to learn the proper use of social media and online forums. In addition, staff have been in-serviced with respect to digital teaching tools, and have embraced Learning Management Systems (LMS) platforms as well as Office 365, Google Classroom and D2L in their ongoing practice. With continued surveys and anecdotal conversations with staff and students, technology is becoming more embedded in the curriculum and the majority of teachers now use a form of blended learning. Furthermore, teachers continue to engage in teacher led drop in sessions as an effective professional development learning. Mobile computer labs are available to all classes, and every classroom in the school has a computer and proxima, to reinforce new digital tools. Each department has Chrome Carts to further supplement student learning and a proxima and screens were installed in our Chapel to facilitate the use of technology. Finally, the community embraces social media for daily announcements and news i.e. multiple twitter feeds, youtube channels, and new web editors that department heads have received professional development on.

**SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT**

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

Our school has many approaches to environmental stewardship that are Christ and Gospel value centred. Activities support collaborative contributions by our students and community, as reflective goal setting occurs. Students and our school EcoClub regularly communicate our progress as we learn to model responsible citizenship. Students investigate needs of the school as they align with audit results, set goals, develop action plans and communicate results with the school community. Results are shared with students, staff and school council. Various programs have been developed that support our Ecoschool initiatives. School wide distribution of GOOS bins, paper cut monitoring of staff paper usage, PIP program run recycling with PIP program Eco-friendly school wide coffee cart all support a reduction in school waste. Energy and waste conservation is regularly monitored as well through various school wide audits and reported to the community. In-school educational campaigns and social media communications enhance community involvement. A yearly and detailed school wide waste audit has revealed a general decrease in garbage and increase in recycled materials. Regional support of our program is also coordinated through visits as staff meetings by Peel Waste Management and classroom Waste Management workshops. Furthermore, staff deliver curriculum through an environmental lens in classroom instruction and through outdoor educational activities. Noteably, St. Marcellinus C.S.S. is ranked as the best contributor to the City of Mississauga’s Million Tree program. We continue to reach out to our community both locally and nationally as a yearly participant in the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-Up. A yearly teacher led trip to Tobermory takes students on a hike along the Bruce Trail along side a Geologist and retired Urban Forester. Their expertise provides a unique insight into the geology, history and ecology of the area. National Sweater Day and Earth Week are both observed while various student led activities are run. During Earth Week Anti-Bottled Water campaigns, recycling and educational activities are organized. Currently, our School Outdoor Garden has now been planted with the help of local expert volunteers and the school’s EcoClub. Finally, the school Ecoclub has teamed up with 3% Project that encourages crosscurricular environmental initiatives. Lastly, the school has earned Gold Certification and is working towards Platinum Status.