

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2018 – 2019

St. Teresa of Calcutta

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Teresa of Calcutta School is to uphold our faith commitment to our students and our teaching. We celebrate spirituality and diversity in the values of achieving, believing and community living in our inclusive Catholic school environment.

As a Catholic School Community, we are committed to nurturing and developing the spiritual, intellectual, physical and social growth of each student. We strive to promote academic excellence in a success-oriented environment. We pledge to promote an effective partnership with home, school and the Parish in a safe, caring, inclusive and Catholic environment. The mission of St. Teresa of Calcutta School is to further develop the faith of our members to recognize that God lives in all of us and to do small things with great love as St. Teresa showed us. By understanding scripture and its connection to the sacraments, Catholic social teachings, and daily life we will further develop our faith. Our social outreach programs will assist students to develop healthy minds, bodies and spirits. Instilling self-respect, respect for others as well as compassion and empathy are our goals as a school. Together with dignity and respect, we aim to inspire life-long learning and encourage students to attain their full potential as Christians.

MOTTO

Hands to Serve, Hearts to Love, Growing in the Image of Christ

CATHOLIC FOCUS

On September 6, 2016 upon the Canonization of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, we proudly became St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School. St. Teresa of Calcutta is an elementary school of approximately 240 students, of diverse social and ethnic backgrounds, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The surrounding community consists of both single family homes and apartment buildings situated in a geographic area that is located in the Mississauga East Family of Schools.

Our beloved school has a long history, beginning with its initial establishment in 1980 as Mother Teresa of Calcutta. It housed in Runningbrook Public School, an open concept school sharing the building with employees of the Peel Board. Eventually the Board purchased the building and had it blessed in September of 1984. When Mother Teresa was beatified in 2003, the school's name was then changed to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Our school motto "Hands to Serve, Hearts to Love," is based on the example of Mother Teresa. She founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious community of nuns to serve the 'poorest of the poor'. Other outreach projects include, supporting local food banks, supporting our families that are in need (especially

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during the Christmas season) lending a hand to a variety of relief efforts, our annual Terry Fox event, and supporting initiatives throughout the parish such as the ShareLife Campaign.

At St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School our commitment to academic excellence is a shared responsibility. Literacy and Numeracy, along with Catholicity, continue to be a focus in our school. Emphasis is placed on providing a balanced program that involves our students in reading, writing, listening and oral communication experiences across the curriculum. Computers, SMART Boards, Ipads and Chromebook technology are an integral part of the curriculum and support students in all curriculum areas.

Our students come to us with a variety of strengths and needs, and our Catholic faith as a common bond. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our faith and value system form the foundation of our school program. At St. Teresa of Calcutta School, we are proud to deliver the curriculum, which is both broad and relevant to the needs and aspirations of all our students. A wide range of subjects and learning experiences are offered to develop the skills, abilities and talents of individual students. Accordingly, appropriate assessment procedures are employed regularly to motivate and encourage student success. To ensure coherence and wholeness, subjects are taught within the context of The Ontario Curriculum, Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, Gospel values and the best educational practices.

To strengthen our Catholic identity at St. Teresa of Calcutta, we will continue to develop opportunities for faith formation of students and staff, with an educational purpose and program that strives to Integrate Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's fundamental beliefs and values into all of our endeavors.

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, [School Name] 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, [School Name] 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
 - Demonstrating the social Catholic teachings in authentic ways

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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?

Upon entering the front doors of our school, the essence of 'family' is present and felt by the warm and inviting atmosphere - all are welcomed. St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School community models, celebrates and nourishes gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centered programs and services in numerous ways:

- Visual symbols of our Catholic faith and Virtues Program are always present in foyer, office, and classrooms
- Visual Symbols of our Catholic School Graduate Expectations are present in our foyer and classrooms
- All classes have materials for prayer centers that reflect the liturgical season
- The celebration of virtue education is practiced through liturgies, masses and daily reflections
- Through our involvement in outreach programs in partnership with St. Patrick's parish and community agencies such as ShareLife and Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre, we support our own needy families by holding food drives, asking for toiletries, toys and clothing through the year but especially during the Christmas season
- Youth Faith Ambassadors are involved in liturgical celebrations and social outreach programs, visiting our local Seniors' Residence to put smiles on the faces of our elderly through song and activity; Adult Faith Ambassadors participate in Family-wide activities, and lead staff in liturgical celebrations
- Partnerships between St. Patrick's Parish and school community. Staff support sacramental preparation with a First Holy Communion Community Celebration supported by our School Council and each student is given a small sacramental gift.
- ShareLife Easter Drive and Spirit Days to support ShareLife are held

CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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

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|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 64% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 72% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 52% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

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

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|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 72% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 76% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 40% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta School community supports and provides opportunities for life-long learning. Our school offers extra-curricular activities (e.g. cross-country, basketball, volleyball, soccer, chess, track and field, etc.) and co-curricular programs which include a choir, dance, public speaking competition, environmental awareness activities (Earth Week Extravaganza), Eco Schools, Lunch time Lego clubs for primary and junior students, Youth Faith Ambassadors, Craft club, and intramural events (primary indoor soccer, junior boys' and girls' volleyball and basketball).

Students are supported and encouraged to take on leadership opportunities around the school such as Youth Faith Ambassadors, PALS leaders, coaching, taking on the role of office helpers or kindergarten/ primary helpers, organizing Spirit Days and various Community Outreach activities (i.e., Food Drives and volunteering at Dr. Simone).

Parents at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School are very supportive and are actively involved in their children's learning and in school activities. Communication between home and school is facilitated by regular parent- student-teacher conferences, phone calls, newsletters/update pages and e-blast reminders, Catholic School Council Parent Bulletins, written notices of upcoming events, and the use of daily agendas.

At St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School, we are proud of our balanced religion and academic programs, which offer students a well-rounded value-centered education to support all students as they work toward their full potential.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School demonstrates that it values the involvement of community through partnerships and collaboration.

Parents are encouraged to participate in activities such as Open House, workshops, community events (e.g. Guest Speakers (e.g. Geronimo Henry, The Saidat Show), Christmas Concert and Catholic Education Week Activities in Classrooms).

Communication is provided to inform parents of school, parish and community events.

Community/parent/student volunteers support sports programs, as well as fundraise to support arts, technology and the overall well-being of the school.

Through our CCCC committee which includes teachers, administration, Child Youth Worker, Social Worker, parent, and Public Health Nurse, we will continue to work with our community partners on social justice projects, healthy eating, fitness and green projects in the school and in the community.

All staff will continue to attend in-school Teaching Learning Cycles, focus on getting to know the learner, use differentiated instruction, and utilize effective mathematical strategies to target the needs of all learners, with support of IST.

Teachers will have ongoing opportunities to collaborate and focus on our theory of action with support of IST.

Intermediate teachers will work with the E-GELTs to enhance student achievement.

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Staff are working with the YMCA and parents to provide a snack program at the school which will promote well-being for all students.

Other partnerships include:

- Ongoing work with the Peel Regional Police through the R.A.I.D and Youth Education Programs and regular visits from our Student Resource Officer (SRO)
- Student teacher candidates (York University/ OSIE), student ECE candidates (Sheridan and Guelph-Humber) Co-op students from John Cabot and Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary Schools are welcome to be part of our school community.
- Working with M.A.D.D. Canada and LCBO to create decorated bags reminding consumers not to Drink and Drive.

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.

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School demonstrates strong partnerships and collaboration among Parish, Home and School based on mutual respect rooted in our Catholic Faith. Administrators from St. Thomas More, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Edmund and St. Teresa of Calcutta attend a September breakfast meeting with Father John Facey to plan the year's mass dates.

At the school level we strive to express our faith through various activities:

- Our Community Board is a place where student voice can be seen and heard
- Through class prayer time, school liturgies and masses,
- Supporting sacramental preparation with St. Patrick's Church (teachers at lunch time help students to complete Reconciliation homework)
- Father Facey is always invited to local events at the school.
- Daily communication with home when required
- St. Patrick's Youth Minster makes regular visits, joins us for liturgies/religion classes and talks to Grade 4-8 students about the Youth groups at St. Patrick's Church (Elevate and Edge Programs).
- Rosary Apostolates visit the school monthly to pray the rosary with all classes
- On-going staff interaction with parents and other community members
- Parents are encouraged to be part of sacramental preparation
- Parish events are posted in the school newsletter/updates
- Sacraments are published in Pastoral Plan for community
- First Holy Communion recipients are invited to a family celebration in the spring
- Parents are invited to all school masses, liturgies, and assemblies
- Fundraising for Share Life is supported by both staff and students

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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. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School is committed to healthy and safe learning and working environments for students, staff and parents that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement of all learners in the following ways:

- Participation in School/Family/Board Learning (e.g. Equity Training for a lead teacher and administrator)
- Staff planned activities for Anti-Bullying and Prevention Week which focused on how we can stop bullying by being positive agents of change. (This year daily announcements were read, student voice was displayed in a large pink heart, a Tea light liturgy emphasizing the light of Christ was held and the week ended with a Kindness Celebration.)
- Networks Learning Team participation at the Family of Schools
- All divisions participate in Teaching/Learning Cycles in which data is analyzed; areas of greatest need are identified
- Guided Teaching/Guided Practice
- Guided Reading/Guided Math
- Buddy Reading
- Primary Home Reading Program (RAZ Kids)
- Knowledgehook, Math Prodigy, and Happy Numbers are a few of the online programs students use
- Initiatives in area of Technology (Both the Gr. 6/7 and 7/8 classes are part of the Edwin Project)
- Common Grade level planning
- Ongoing monitoring of PM/CASI/Report Card, EQAO results to identify areas of greatest need and set goals
- Purchasing of necessary resources to support balanced literacy and math
- Professional development opportunities are accessed by staff to improve instruction and understanding of students with varying abilities
- Parent Open House/curriculum night
- School Council attends professional development at Central Catholic School Council meetings as well as Family of Schools Council meetings
- School newsletters contain information about reading, homework, social skills, virtues, and safety in a Catholic Environment
- Community resources are integrated into curriculum: Peel Police Programs, Peel Health, John Cabot high

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school presentations

- Student teacher placements (York University/OSIE) and student ECE placements (Sheridan/Guelph-Humber)
- Grade 8 Community Service hours
- Co-op placements from John Cabot and Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary Schools
- School promotes Homework Help Online Program (e.g. Mathies)
- Special Education models and ensures inclusion of all students
- Collaboration from the Board ASD and Behavioral Teams to ensure student success
- Supporting Transitional Procedures with Secondary Student Guidance Department

TECHNOLOGY

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School is committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context.

- PEDS provide opportunity for students in grades 1 – 8
- All About Me and My Blueprint online programs assist students with making decisions about their future
- Our budget purchases reflect the technological focus of the school in having 2.5 Chrome Book Carts, 1 iPad cart, and 2 special education ipads as well classroom SMART Boards which are in all classrooms.
- Catholic School Council supports our technology initiatives through funding SMART boards and a Chromebook cart of 10 machines
- Staff work together to support one another with tech PD opportunities at staff meetings, PA Day activities, Board level PD opportunities, and as well as attending Summer Institutes
- Staff and student needs are met and further opportunities are provided to challenge and grow
- Resource staff provide differentiated technology programming and hardware to meet the needs of students with varying abilities

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SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta encourages the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling, through a variety of ways:

- The establishment of a green student committee (ECO Team) leads student events to encourage green initiatives and respectfully sustains environmental practices.
- ECO team conducts audits of water use and electricity
- ECO Team gives presentations to classes to teach students about recycling
- School has received Gold Recognition from the Province as an Eco-School in 2018
- Eco friendly messaging is posted in our hallways and classrooms by our Eco Team
- Integration of environmental responsibility through Virtues program
- Efforts to reduce paper use (double sided printing, e-mailing teacher information rather than paper memos, using recycled paper (GOOS Bins), office communicates via emails to the community)
- Participates in green activities such as litter-less lunches.
- Participates in the Big Crunch
- Encourages teachers to use tools to communicate with students other than paper.
- Celebrates Earth Day and Earth Hour and continues to promote the green project
- The school participates in the Peels for Peel Food Waste Program