

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2018 – 2019

St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. John Paul II School, in partnership with the Family and Church, is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic education which develops spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community.

MOTTO

Spiritual, Academic, Social, Excellence.

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School represents the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's belief that the Catholic faith, as expressed through Gospel values, is the driving force in the board's community of learners, which includes five key groups: students; the parish, home and community; teachers and support staff; administrators and supervisory officers; and trustees. St. John Paul II strives to be a Christ-centred system in which all may work and learn in a supportive, inclusive, meaningful, and respectful environment. St. John Paul II is situated in Bolton, a community within the Town of Caledon. The school consists of 658 students and ranges from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. John Paul II Catholic 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.
- As a diverse educational community responding to God's call, St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School fosters and nourishes an inclusive atmosphere rooted in tradition and scripture while:
 - Being authentic witnesses to our Catholic Faith;

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- 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. John Paul II Elementary School community models, celebrates and nourishes gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centred programs and services:

- Virtue Assemblies each month (students recognized and shared with greater community)
- Liturgies for staff and students (at school as well as at Holy Family Parish church)
- Integration of Catholic lens throughout all areas of the curriculum with a focus on Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
- Sacred space in all classrooms and common areas
- Distribution of seasonal liturgical symbols (Advent wreath, alter cloths)
- Gospel readings, prayers and reflections in classrooms and over PA daily
- Social justice initiatives ie. Work with Dr. Simone, Terry Fox Run, Grandfriends, Youth Faith Ambassadors, Share Life, and various initiatives selected by staff.
- Adult Faith Ambassadors (seasonal liturgies for staff, assist with BECDM Family of Schools initiatives)
- Youth Faith Ambassadors (participation at Commissioning Ceremony, Social Justice)
- Light the Way Initiative – Students taking on volunteer hours in the school and school community to demonstrate their leadership in a Catholic context
- Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations visible in the school and integrated into all grades/subjects
- Rosary Apostolate present to lead all students in the praying of the Rosary
- Sacred Space available to students as a place for prayer and reflection

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CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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

- Reading 76% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 69% 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 76% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Writing 77% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Mathematics 26% 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. John Paul II School community supports and fosters the continuous development of all through:

- Math tutoring after school for grade 3 & 6 students achieving lower than the provincial standard
- Transition Planning for all Exceptional students and Grade 8's going into Grade 9
- Welcome to Kindergarten Night
- Special Education team collaborates with teachers to promote inclusive education for all
- Collaboration with Peel Health to provide school-based healthy initiatives
- Link and ensuring understanding from our Virtues Program to all subjects
- Professional Learning Communities for staff with a focus on Catholicity, math, literacy, well-being, and technology
- Leveled Literacy Intervention Reading program
- Use of PM Benchmarks and CASI data to guide instruction
- Implementation of Balanced Literacy
- Shared planning time/collaborative planning
- Use of differentiated instruction
- Implementation of IEPs with transition plans to ensure inclusion of all students
- Teacher collaboration
- Community Engagement
- SMART board, iPad, and Chrome Book technology used to enhance program delivery
- Divisional meetings with a focus on increasing student achievement and professional development for staff
- Student generated anchor charts (success criteria)

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- Literacy and Numeracy supported by Instructional Support Teacher
- Various clubs supporting well-being and inclusiveness (sport teams, MakerSpace, Mindfulness Group, Rosary Club, Games Club, Art Club, Choir, Guardian Angels, etc.)
- Silent Mentor program supporting various student needs throughout the school
- Collaborate with Child and Youth Worker to assist students with social/emotional concerns

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

St. John Paul II values the involvement of community through various partnerships including:

- Active involvement with Catholic School Council
- Catholic School Council present at Open House/Welcome to Kindergarten and regularly scheduled meetings
- Parent Information Nights with guest speakers
- Connect with Peel Health and OPP Caledon to collaborate around school wide initiatives
- Use of Instructional Support Teacher to support teachers in their continued efforts towards reaching all students
- Students supporting the Caledon Exchange (local foodbank) through donations and volunteering of time
- Intermediate students maintain partnership with local Senior's Residence
- Continuous planning and support from Speech and Language Pathologist, Psychologist, Social Worker, and Child and Youth Worker
- Close connection with Holy Family Parish through Parish Priest and Youth Minister
- Include various Board level personnel in supporting student academic, social, and spiritual needs

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. John Paul II School promotes the engagement and active participation of the parish and home as a fundamental component of student success by:

- Close relationship maintained with school and parish pastoral team
- Annual meetings with Holy Family Parish to determine schedules for Masses, Sacraments and Graduation
- Ongoing invitation for Holy Family Parish pastoral team to visit school/staff
- Information is shared through monthly school newsletters, classroom letters and school web page
- Grade 7's attend parish retreats

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- School acts as liaison in providing information and direction for students preparing to receive Sacraments
- Parish pastoral team invited to special school activities and they are present for school liturgical celebrations
- Student involvement in Edge and Rooted Programs offered by Holy Family Parish
- Collaborated with Father Larry and Youth Minister from Holy Family Parish to plan and organize Youth Faith Ambassador Commissioning Ceremony

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. John Paul II school is committed to creating a safe learning environment that enhances well-being, engagement and achievement through:

- Regular review of Health and Safety reminders with staff
- Scheduled supervision times for students to ensure their safety
- School wide initiatives with focus on well-being
- School wide goals in Literacy, Numeracy and Well-Being
- Regular use of various assessment strategies including conversations, products, and conversations in order to promote student achievement
- Use of Social Worker and Child and Youth Worker to support student well-being
- Well-Being of staff incorporated into professional development days

TECHNOLOGY

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

St. John Paul II school is committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context through:

- Educating students on digital citizenship with a Catholic focus
- Continued use of technology to further develop students' need to be creative and think critically
- The use of Twitter and other social media sites as a means of learning, networking, and communicating
- Using technology to connect with other students across the globe
- Increasing the amount of technology in the school
- Encouraging students to "bring their own devices" while reminding them of their proper use

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- Creating various technology groups/clubs (Coding Club, Maker Space)
- Continue with “Tech Talks” in order to develop teacher efficacy around technology use in the classroom
- Use of Elementary Guidance Experiential Learning Teacher to assist with use of Maker Space technology
- Launched our Family of Schools STEAM day with ten of our grade 4 students in attendance

SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

St. John Paul II school engages in a variety of activities that models and promote good stewardship of resources through the following:

- School “Green Gang” composed of students and teachers from all divisions
- Recycling program
- Celebration of Earth Day
- Guest speakers with a focus on respecting our environment
- Maintenance of a school garden by selected students and parent volunteers
- Litterless lunches encouraged throughout the school year
- Committed to the reduction in the use of paper (email communication to the community)
- Planting of plant, shrubs, and small trees on school grounds
- Continue with Eco-School Gold certification
- Implement paper-cut with staff and students
- Use of water filling stations to promote refillable water bottles
- Part of waste audit program
- Partnered with Caledon Community Services to support Eco-school initiatives
- Plans to “refresh” outdoor Peace Garden with new trees and shrubs

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