

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2018 – 2019

St. Elizabeth Seton School

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Elizabeth Seton is a caring school community environment committed to our Catholic faith and high academic standards. We provide a safe and comfortable learning environment where models of Gospel values and Catholic doctrines, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school.

At St. Elizabeth Seton, our students participate in daily readings, prayers and reflections. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our faith and values system form the foundation of our school program.

At St. Elizabeth Seton, we aim to be like Jesus. As a Catholic school community, we are committed to helping each other grow to be the best we can be. Together with our families, school, Church and the broader school community, we learn skills and values that we use to make our world a better place in which to live.

MOTTO

"Let Our Light Shine"

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School is an elementary school located in the northern section of the City of Mississauga. The student population, come from a wide range of social and ethnic backgrounds reflecting the ever-increasing diversity of cultures found within Mississauga. St. Elizabeth Seton was opened in 1978.

St. Elizabeth Seton is a caring school community environment committed to our Catholic faith and high academic standards. We provide a safe and comfortable learning environment where models of Gospel values and Catholic doctrines, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school. The school motto, "Let Our Light Shine", reflects a holistic philosophy where religion and daily life are intertwined. At St. Elizabeth Seton, our students participate in daily readings, prayers and reflections. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our faith and values system form the foundation of our school program. All activities at St. Elizabeth Seton; academic and pastoral work, extra-curricular and intra-curricular, prayer and worship, administration and management, help to prepare our students for their lives as Catholics in the community.

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, St. Elizabeth Seton School is further committed to:

- Deepening the understanding, appreciation and practice of the Catholic Christian lifestyle, with Jesus as role model;

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- 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. Elizabeth Seton 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?

Jesus is at the heart of all that we do. The school works diligently to encourage students to apply what they are learning about Catholic values, scripture, as well as the Catholic School Graduate Expectations into their daily practices, both in and out of school. We integrate and model empathy, patient listening, forgiveness, understanding and prayer into the life of the school community.

CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 96% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 92% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 60% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 85% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 90% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 55% 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.

Catholicity is infused in every aspect of our school life; "peace talk" is one popular conflict-resolution strategy used by teachers. This strategy affords teachers and students the opportunity to talk things out when students experience a problem. In order to address any bullying, our Child and Youth Worker in collaboration with school staff routinely use the Zones of Regulation Program as well as Restorative Justice practices with students. There are also many school stewardship initiatives in place, created and led by student Faith Ambassadors - as well as our student ECO Ambassadors. These initiatives bring student voice and perspective into each classroom and are intended to increase student engagement and development. Student led announcements by Faith and ECO Ambassadors are another aspect of the supports we put in place at St. Elizabeth Seton to increase student engagement and to serve as opportunities to develop student's well-being, learning and leading.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

The school values the involvement and support of a greater school community. Some of the strong partnerships that we have maintained, and strengthened over the years include:

- Peel Police, Peel Health, Big Brothers\Big Sisters, St. John of the Cross Parish, Mississauga Fire Department, Eden Food for Change, Rosary Apostolate, Indigenous and First Nations' Artists and Guest Speakers, Mississauga Public Library, Swim to Survive, MADD Canada,

Much of the work we do at the school happens through the strength of our community volunteers including our volunteer reading program and our Catholic School Council.

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.

The St. Elizabeth Seton community invites Father Joseph and Father Sebastian regularly to celebrate mass with our staff and students in the gym; as well, he and the entire Parish team are always invited to all school and community events. Students and staff are also invited to the Church to attend the many functions throughout the school year such as St. Elizabeth Seton's Family Advent Mass and Feast Day Mass, as well as sacramental preparation with our Grade 2 and 7 students. The entire St. Elizabeth Seton community appreciates the strong connection between the parish, home and school, which in turn supports student faith formation.

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.

School staff are encouraged to demonstrate respect, care and personal regard for students, parents and their colleagues. Over the past number of years, there have been many examples of Catholic Values exemplified and modelled by staff. We as a community of believers will continue to embrace mindfulness as well as Accountable Talk - in ways that are consistent with our mission statement and our Catholic values. Students are aware of the

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school culture of high social and academic expectations, balanced with an understanding of the fact that mistakes are a necessary and valuable part of the learning process.

TECHNOLOGY

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

The school understands the need to promote student's awareness of Catholic digital citizenship especially as we move towards having students bring in their personal electronic devices. Through Digital Citizenship lessons, we help students understand the necessary components of their 'online' life. We also emphasize that when they are on line it is important to be respectful to their beliefs and values as members of the Catholic Church. Through the dedicated and supportive efforts of our Catholic School Council's annual fundraising initiatives, we have increased the amount of technology (e.g. iPads, Chromebooks) available to students in the school and have placed interactive SMART Boards in every single classroom in the building, as well as the portables outside the school. The school has also worked to improve the use of technology resources among staff members in order to support student learning, collaboration and engagement.

SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

Through the leadership of our student ECO ambassadors, the school is (Gold) Eco-School Certified. The school has achieved PLATINUM status –an accomplishment the school is very proud of! We continue to work with staff to reduce paper usage as well as energy consumption through initiatives such as Good On One Side (G.O.O.S.) Bins and themed environment days, such as "Motor-less" Mondays, "Two-Light" Tuesdays, "Water Bottle-less" Wednesdays, and "Think Before You Toss" Thursdays. Students measure and chart the amount of participation in these themed school Eco-days and take the time to celebrate classroom environmental accomplishments.

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