

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2018 – 2019

St. Sofia Separate School

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the staff of St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School celebrate spiritual and diversity through achieving, believing and community living in an inclusive Byzantine Catholic faith environment. Our mission is to nurture each child's Eastern Byzantine Catholic faith and traditions, while developing the attitudes, skills, knowledge and desire for life-long learning. In doing so, we will be building a school community which enriches future growth through caring, sharing and preparing.

MOTTO

Caring, Sharing and Preparing

CATHOLIC FOCUS

St. Sofia is a regional Elementary Catholic School whose students are all of the Eastern Byzantine Rite Catholic Faith. The School follows the Julian calendar and as such, celebrates Christmas on January 7th and Good Friday & Easter pending on the placement in the Julian calendar year.

St. Sofia was established to support Eastern Byzantine Rite Catholic parents in their responsibility for the spiritual, religious, moral, academic and physical needs of their children in accordance with the teachings of the Church. The school community at St. Sofia is committed to the search for excellence, the uniqueness of the individual and education of the whole person. St. Sofia fosters a community environment that stresses tolerance and acceptance of others, commitment to our Byzantine Rite Catholic faith and high academic standards. We provide a safe and comfortable learning environment where models of Gospel values and Byzantine Rite Catholic doctrines, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school. The school motto “Caring, Sharing and Preparing” reflects the holistic philosophy where religion, culture and daily life are intertwined.

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

To strengthen its Catholic identity, Dufferin-Peel will continue to develop opportunities for faith formation of students and staff, together with an educational program which strives to integrate the board's fundamental beliefs and values into all of its endeavors within the Catholic School Learning Plan for St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic Elementary School.

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 | 90% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 79% 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 | 72% 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.

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- Virtues Program
- Region of Peel Bullying Prevention Program
- School Molebens and Liturgies
- Morning Prayers/Announcements
- Sacred Spaces in the school and classrooms- Icon Corners
- Displays all over the school that reflect the Gospel values, Saints and Feast Days
- Religion/Family Life Program
- Visits from Parish Priests
- Gospel values are infused in all aspects of the curriculum

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Open House/Curriculum Night
 ESL/ELL Parent-Teacher/Report Card Information Workshop
 Catholic School Advisory Council Fundraising to support school initiatives
 Guest Speakers (Diversity related)
 Communication through School Council on School Website
 Welcoming environment (displays, presentations)
 School Resource Officers
 Parks and Recreation Initiatives
 Peel Health Programs (e.g. gr. 3 Swim to Survive)
 Walking excursions
 Peel Children's Safety Village
 Burnhamthorpe Public Library promotion
 EQAO Parent Information Night
 Welcome to Kindergarten Night
 First Solemn Holy Communion Parent Meeting
 Access to Newcomer Settlement Worker
 Student Voice Club
 Community/Student Well-being survey

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.

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- Communion Meetings involve Parents, School and Parishes
- Parish Information on website
- Sacramental Preparation
- Visits from Parish Priests
- Sacred space in each classroom
- Support Parish Activities (Food Drive, Christmas Help)
- Annual monitoring of the Pastoral Plan
- Informational Bulletin Boards

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.

Green Team Initiatives

Announcements over P.A.

Healthy Schools Team

Creation of school garden

Encourage recycling, reducing, and reusing (reusable water bottles, GOOS paper, reduction in photocopying, set up No-Reply Email to communicate with parents/guardians)

TECHNOLOGY

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

Use of SmartBoards, iPads, tablets, and computers lab

Training available for staff and students to use assistive technology (e.g. texthelp, WordQ)

Training for staff to use One Note (Class Notebooks)

Training available for staff and students to promote use of assistive technology in French as required by students

Support available through SAT to assist teachers in using technology in the classroom

JK-1 students set up to use RAZ-kids

Gr. 1-8 students set up to use Mathletics

Bring your own device permitted, following Board policy

SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

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We encourage the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling at our schools.

We teach students through Religion, Family Life, Science and Social Studies about the importance of the sacredness of our environment, using First Nations, Meti, Inuit perspectives and through a Catholic lens.

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