

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

The mission of St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Elementary School is to build a community of faith, modeling excellence and leading through innovation, through love and lifelong learning. As a community we will inspire students to lead and excel academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

School Motto: “A place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.” Pope Francis

Our Parish: Guardian Angels

Pastor: *Rev. Jan Gogolewski*

Parish website: www.guardianangelsparishchurch.org

Message from the Pastor:

Our school is under the pastoral care of Guardian Angels Parish. We encourage families to register with the parish, and to join us for Sunday mass at Guardian Angels Parish Hall.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

At St. Daniel Comboni we strive to build a strong sense of Catholic community aimed at benefiting our children. Community building must become the heart of any school improvement effort. Whatever else is involved - improving teaching, relating new forms of governance, empowering teachers and parents, increasing

professionalism, it must rest on a foundation of our faith and community building. Parents are important in our community and are an integral part of the Catholic community at St. Daniel Comboni Catholic School.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Nurturing Hope

Throughout Catholic Education Week, we ask you to reflect on the significance of Catholic education's presence and contribution in our Church, and in our society.

May 2 – May 7, 2021 is Catholic Education Week.

“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2021 are as follows:

- Monday: **Preparing the Earth**
- Tuesday: **Sowing Seeds of Gratitude**
- Wednesday: **Cultivating Relationships**
- Thursday: **Harvesting New Fruit**
- Friday: **Marvelling in Wonder**

During Catholic Education week we are committed to celebrating Catholic education and what it means to Nurture Hope in our lives, schools and communities. We plan on inviting parents and community members into our school (Virtually) for a number of activities which celebrate the spirit of hope that exists among our staff students and school community. We will also be conducting a school wide retreat for students, celebrating the gift of Catholic Education. Classrooms throughout our school will also invite parents in as they facilitate age appropriate activities that celebrate the gift of Catholic Education. Catholic Education Week is a time for us to celebrate Catholic education and work to ensure that we never forget how grateful we are to be able to attend a publicly funded Catholic school. Catholic schools are unique and this week provides us an opportunity to celebrate the uniqueness of Catholic education.

Faith Formation:

Forming ourselves in our Catholic faith is a foundational element in helping each of us understand and live in the example of Christ.

Faith Related Activities (In the 2020-2021 School Year we continue with these activities virtually)

- Youth Faith Ambassadors and Staff faith activities led by Faith Ambassadors
- Staff Liturgies/Reflections during Advent and Lent
- School wide Mass, including, Advent, Lent, and Year End.
- Catholic Education Week event (TBD)
- School Wide Reconciliation
- School wide Remembrance Day Service
- Rosary Apostolate
- Youth Faith Ambassadors lead virtue activities
- Daily classroom prayer at the beginning of the day, at lunch and dismissal
- Sacred spaces in each class for individual prayer and as a focus for class celebrations
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life Education
- Informal living and teaching of our faith throughout our day in our interactions with others
- Celebrating the Virtues Program daily with morning prayers and announcements
- School staff meets to plan faith events
- Classroom teachers lead their students in the preparation of Liturgies and Masses
- Staff focus on faith life of the school at monthly staff meetings
- Staff PD opportunities, Religious Ed in-services
- Brampton West Family of Schools Faith Ambassador Meetings and participation in other family level faith activities

Sacramental Preparation:

As Catholics, we understand sacraments to be "outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace." Together in partnership with our parish, we support the preparation of God's children in receiving the sacraments.

Event	Grade 2	Grade 7
Sacrament of Reconciliation	April 8, 2021 (6pm)	April 19, 2021 (6pm)
Sacrament of First Communion	April 17, 2021 (10am)	
Sacrament of Confirmation		April 22, 2021 (7pm)

Liturgical Celebrations:

The Liturgical calendar is marked by the gathering in community to celebrate the Eucharist and share in prayer.

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	October 9, 2020
Advent Mass	December 11, 2020
Easter Mass	April 22, 2021
Year End/ Graduation Mass	June 18, 2021

Social Justice / Outreach Activities / Charities:

Catholic Social Teachings of the Church root our actions in supporting human dignity and the preferential option of the poor which calls us to serve the most vulnerable in the world.

St. Daniel Comboni School Community actively supports:

- Guardian Angels building fund support
- Charity Fundraisers
- ShareLife
- Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research
- Community Response Committee- support of Community members in their time of need and joy
- Thanksgiving Food Drive (Guardian Angels Community & The Knight’s Table)
- Eco Lions / Eco Team provides us an opportunity to further reflect on the importance of caring for all of God’s creatures

Recognizing Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

Framed by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE), our graduates will be effective communicators, reflective thinkers, lifelong learners, collaborative contributors, caring family members, responsible citizens and discerning believers formed in the Catholic faith community.

To celebrate the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, we as a school community make these expectations visible in our offices, hallways and classrooms. We also always use these expectation as tools to help children grow through progressive discipline practices. We celebrate when students exhibit themselves as Self-Directed Responsible Life Long Learners, Discerning Believers, Collaborative Contributors, Effective Communicators, Caring Family Members, Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens. Further to this as an integral part of our Catholic School Learning Plan, we have purposely linked our goals directly to our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Celebrating Virtues:

A virtue is a habit or established capacity to perform good actions according to a moral standard. When we practice these virtues, we strengthen them and thereby make the presence of God more and more visible in the world around us.

A virtue is a habit or established capability to perform good actions according to a moral standard. In other words, a virtue is a habit that shows people and God that we are good people. Each month we will look at developing one of these virtues:

•FAITH •RESPECT •EMPATHY •KINDNESS •CONSCIENCE •LOVE •HOPE •ACCEPTANCE •SELF-CONTROL
•FAIRNESS

As a school, we challenge our Youth Faith Ambassadors to bring these virtues alive in our school. We pray about these virtues, we talk about them in the classroom and we practice them in the hallways and the schoolyard. We will celebrate the progress we make to be a more virtuous Catholic school – a place of safety, caring and inclusivity for all.

Visible Signs of our Faith:

Through symbol and service, we are instruments of God's love whose work within our communities stands as a witness to our faith.

At St. Daniel Comboni School we have many visible signs of our faith in our classrooms, hallways and common school areas.

These visible signs include:

- Display case that brings our virtues to life / artwork throughout the school
- Our altar and cross in our most visible hallway
- We have made a concerted effort to ensure we highlight scripture in all we do. This aligns with our Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle and further aligns with the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle goals
- In our main office and in the school hallway we have pictures of Pope Francis
- Our classrooms all have crosses, prayer tables and visible representations of our faith on classroom walls
- The most important visible sign of our faith you will see when you come to St. Daniel Comboni, is that teachers, parents and students working together sharing the light of Christ in all of their interactions and typifying what it means to let the light of Christ shine through our actions

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- Family Life Curriculum - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum](#)
- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- Encyclical Letter "Laudato Si'" - [Laudato Si'](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si” - [Laudato Si’](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

School-Based

www.guardianangelsparishchurch.org

Signature Page

Pastor

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council

Vice Principal(s)

Principal

Superintendent