

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2017 – 2018

St. Elizabeth Seton

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. We are proud of ourselves and our commitment 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

	School	Province
Percentage of students who live in lower-income households	16.12%	19.6%
Percentage of students whose parents have some university education	34.03%	23.1%
Percentage of students who receive special education services	15.4%	15.6%
Percentage of students whose first language is not English	34.5%	24.5%
Percentage of students who are new to Canada from non-English speaking country	11.1%	3.8%
Percentage of students whose first language is not French	100%	96.7%
Percentage of students who are new to Canada from non-French speaking country	12%	4.1%

* Source: Ontario Ministry of Education

* Year: 2016-2017

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

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

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

- 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 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 tries very hard to teach parents and students to apply what they are learning about Catholic values, scripture as well as the Catholic Graduate Expectations into their daily practices, both in and out of school. The phrase: "We cannot pray with each other on Sundays and prey on each other the rest of the week" guides us as 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 (2016-2017) EQAO Primary Assessment Performance

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 88% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 87% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 69% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

Summary of the school's most recent (2016-2017) EQAO Junior Assessment Performance

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • Reading | 80% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Writing | 85% of students at or above Provincial Standard |
| • Mathematics | 45% of students at or above Provincial Standard |

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

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 that allows the opportunity to talk things out when students experience a problem. In order to address perceived bullying behaviours and in conjunction with our Child and Youth Worker, school staff routinely use the Zones of Regulation Program as well as Restorative Justice practices with students. Bullying Awareness initiatives are supported by Catholic School Council and, this year, will involve organizations such as the Youth Wellness Network and Bully B.R.A.V.E. who will conduct a series of workshops for students, staff as well as parents. 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 and every 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 of the greater school community. Some examples of the partnerships that we maintain, and have strengthened over time include: Peel Police, Peel Health, Big Brothers\Big Sisters, St. John of the Cross Parish, Mississauga Fire Department, Eden Community Food Bank, Community Care Access Centre, University of Waterloo (Healthy Schools Initiative) , Alzheimer's Society, Rosary Apostolate, Indigenous and First Nations' Artists and Guest Speakers, Raymond Kingsmore Drum Clinics (for students and parents), Mississauga Public Library, Swim to Survive, MADD Canada, Bully B.R.A.V.E., Youth Wellness Network. The school continues the practice of recognizing the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit at staff and community meetings. Much of the work we do at the school happens through the strength of our community volunteers including our school yearbook, our volunteer reading program, and the monitoring of our kindergarten Kiss and Ride program. One aspect that has been particularly rewarding has been the establishment of Community Family Movie Nights at the school. We have had much success and positive community feedback with regard to this initiative.

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.

Priests regularly attend school events and celebrate masses with us in our school gym; they also welcome students into the Church for many functions throughout the school year such as the Feast Day Mass, the We Are One Conference, the Shining Stars Activity Day as well as sacramental initiatives with our Grade 2 and 7 students. Father Joseph and the entire Parish Team are invited to all school\ community events as a regular course of action, and the community comments on, and appreciates, the strength of our connection which supports student faith formation.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

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.

Our Family of Schools served as the initial pilot for the School CashOnline payment system and we have greatly reduced the amount of money in the school at any one time. School staff demonstrate respect, care and personal regard for students, staff and parents and encourage them to demonstrate these qualities towards one another. Over the past number of years, there have been many more offerings at the school that embrace mindfulness as well as Accountable Talk - and staff routinely act in ways that are consistent with our mission statement and our Catholic values. Students are aware of the 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. Through student workshops, such as "My Life Online" we help students understand the necessary components of their 'online' life, and that it be in line with 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 SMARTBoards 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. In 2016-2017, we moved up a level and 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 "Motorless" 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.