

five marks
THE FIVE MARKS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY



FAITH FORMATION

PLAN 2025 - 2026

Faith formation includes a comprehensive and holistic approach to nurturing individuals' spiritual growth and development within the framework of Catholic teachings and practices. Rooted in the belief in God's revelation through Scripture and Tradition, faith formation emphasizes the importance of encountering Christ and deepening one's relationship with Him.

At the same time, faith formation involves evangelisation and catechesis, which provides systematic instruction in the teachings of the Church, including doctrine, morality, prayer, and social justice. While this instruction is often provided through religious education programs, parish-based ministries, and spiritual retreats, faith formation within the Church and broader community through fellowship and service. It is through these communal experiences that Catholics are invited to live out their faith in concrete ways, embodying the values of love, compassion, and solidarity in the world.



MARK ONE:

GROUNDED IN A CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

STANDARD ONE:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS DRIVEN BY A MISSION WHICH VIEWS ALL PEOPLE WITH AN INHERENT DIGNITY AS CHILDREN OF GOD.

GOAL: MAKING MISSION VISIBLE, KNOWN, AND LIVED

KEY STRATEGIES

- Continue to explore the school mission statement and how it comes to life in the school community.
- Explore the relationship between the school mission and the school vision statements. Revisit school vision statements to align with the Division vision.
- Explore the school namesake and how they inspire the work of the school mission.
- Continue to review policies and procedures to affirm alignment with Division and school mission statements.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- Students and staff can confidently share the importance of their namesake and patron saint if not named after a saint.
- Staff and students articulate mission and vision statements.
- Mission is visible throughout the school and online.



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MARK TWO: IMBUED WITH A CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW

STANDARD TWO:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HAS A VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE CATHOLIC VISION EVIDENT IN ITS PHYSICAL SPACE, LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER LIFE.

GOAL: MAKING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH VISIBLE, KNOWN, AND LIVED

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Continue to provide learning opportunities for students and staff of all faiths on how to participate in Catholic liturgy and Mass (i.e. teaching Mass, making Mass booklet available)
- Encourage/provide opportunities for both communal and personal prayer throughout school and workday with an intentional link being made to spiritual well-being.
- Create opportunities for all students and staff to participate in site/department-specific liturgical experiences at least once during the year.
- Carry out social justice activities that are articulated through the perspective of Catholic social teaching.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- Students and staff report that they have opportunities to learn about spiritual wellness on Division surveys.
- Authentic participation by both staff and students in liturgical celebrations and Masses
- Participants can articulate the “why” of social justice projects from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching.
- Students and staff have faith experiences at least once a year outside of Division-wide events.



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MARK THREE:

ANIMATED BY A FAITH-INFUSED CURRICULUM

STANDARD THREE:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HAS AN ACADEMIC CURRICULUM THAT INTEGRATES A VISION OF FAITH WITHIN THE LEARNER OUTCOMES AND TEACHING STRATEGIES.

GOAL: KNOWING, UNDERSTANDING, AND APPLYING FAITH IN OUR LEARNING AND WORK

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Continue to build the capacity of teachers to permeate the faith, in authentic and relevant ways, in all subject area curricula.
- Ensure that Catholic values and principles are explicitly and intentionally named in teaching and learning experiences.
- Provide opportunities for staff and for students to explore the spiritual, moral, and ethical aspects of their learning and work, particularly through the lens of current events.
- Provide professional learning and resources on permeation

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- Teachers will access both human and curricular resources that foster permeation
- Students will report learning about the faith and Catholic values across subject areas on ECSD Annual Survey
- New curriculum will include concrete examples to permeate faith in relevant ways
- Principals will see evidence of permeation in instructional planning.



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MARK FOUR: SUSTAINED BY GOSPEL WITNESS

STANDARD FOUR:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HIRES AND NURTURES TEACHERS THAT ARE LIVING WITNESSES TO THE GOSPEL, AND INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

GOAL: IGNITING THE SPARK TO GROW IN FAITH AS A COMMUNITY AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Continue with the practice of each school and department developing a purposeful faith formation plan that supports the faith life and spiritual wellness of its members
- Continue with Division provided opportunities for staff to learn about the Catholic faith and spiritual wellness (see Appendix 1: ECSD Faith Formation 2025-2026)
- Active demonstration of membership in the Catholic community by Administrators, teachers, and other staff planning and participating in liturgy, prayer, and social justice in their schools, sites, and parishes.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- Schools and departments have purposeful faith formation plans.
- Administrators, teachers, and staff speak openly about Catholic faith with students, families, and each other
- Staff members of all faiths develop an understanding of Catholic faith and working in a Catholic environment
- Staff members of all faiths are empowered to develop their own faith lives and spiritual wellness
- The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are evident in the ways staff relate with students, families, and each other
- Division events such as the School Opening Mass, Faith Development Day, and Grace for the Heart and Soul are anticipated and well attended



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MARK FIVE:

SHAPED BY A SPIRITUALITY OF COMMUNION

STANDARD FIVE:

**STANDARD FIVE: AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
RECOGNIZES THAT EACH AND EVERY MEMBER IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.**

GOAL: WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Nurture the school-home-parish connection
- Develop working partnerships between the Parish priest, the Pastoral team and school staff
- Create intentional opportunities for School Council, parish staff and school administrators to be active in the school's faith life to support the school-home-parish connection
- Create opportunities for Catholic organizations to support school life
- Come to know our new Pope and new Archbishop

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- Students and staff can identify and identify with the Pope and the Archbishop as our shepherds
- Priests and Pastoral team regularly visit schools
- Families report being better connected to the parish
- Catholic partners such as Catholic Social Services Knights of Columbus, and Catholic Women's League are supportive of or actively involved in the life and work of the Division

APPENDIX 1: ECSD FAITH FORMATION 2025-2026

PERMEATION: Active permeation will be continuously promoted across all subject areas in an ongoing and authentic manner throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Consultants from Learning Services and Religious Education Services, supported by Division Leadership, will collaborate to develop additional activities for staff. These activities will help staff understand how to authentically integrate faith into the curriculum. These resources will be available throughout the year, ensuring that permeation remains foundational to the Catholic identity of Edmonton Catholic Schools. These sessions will invite school staff to reflect on Science, Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Social Studies through the lens of faith, fostering a deeper connection between academic subjects and spiritual growth.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT DAY:

Each February, ECSD will have a full day of faith formation for all staff on *Faith Development Day*. This activity sees staff gathering in select locations across the city to listen to Catholic speakers or theologians and to celebrate the Eucharist as a larger community. Faith Development Day, scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM and promises to be a spiritually refreshing experience with a focus on hope. This event requires extensive planning and collaboration to accommodate thousands of staff members by a committee comprised of School Administration and Division Department leaders. Participants will engage with Catholic speakers or theologians and celebrate the Eucharist as a unified community. This year, the event will be held at seven different churches and sites. Each location will offer a Eucharistic Mass, followed by coffee, pastries, and fellowship. Attendees will also enjoy a video message and a keynote address from a local Catholic speaker. The list of schools and their respective parishes is included here. We look forward to celebrating together and supporting the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation through the collection at our Mass.

GRACE FOR THE HEART AND SOUL: Building on the success of Grace for the Heart and Soul 2025, we will continue to offer a menu of choices for schools and departments. For the upcoming year, we will add between four and six new activities with facilitator guides to continue to offer voice and choice to communities.

FATHER MICHAEL “CATFISH” MIREAU YOUTH FAITH DAY: Father Michael Mireau Youth Faith Day is a faith formation activity that has its roots in a motion from the Board of Trustees at the April 29, 2014, Public Meeting of the Board. The motion included that the Administration develop a plan for a Faith Day for our students based on our Catholic tradition and the philosophy of the We Day movement for the year 2015-2016, which was referred to the (Chief) Superintendent for reaction and a report to be brought back to the Board. This day will once again be organized by a group of Jr. High Principals with support from Religious Education Services, Transportation Services and Communication Services. For the 2025-2026 school year, our grade 8 students will once again travel to one of our local parishes over the course of 6 days to participate in a mass and an energy-filled, faith-filled presentation by Jesse Manibusan.

The Catholic school “must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”

(The Joy of the Gospel, 114)