

## Policy 1

---

### FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

#### Our Mission

In partnership with family, Church, and community, we provide Catholic Education of the highest quality to students.

#### Our Vision

A Gospel-centered community committed to:

- Learning excellence
- Christian service
- Living as Christ

#### Our Motto

*Showing the Face of Christ to all.*

#### Our Values

Catholic schools share a foundational belief that all children are loved by God, are individually unique and that the school has a mission to help each student to fulfill their God-given potential in all aspects of their persons: physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually.

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is committed to supporting inclusive communities that foster care and compassion of the students, families and staff with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and tradition, and within the means of the District.

We believe that Catholic education is a ministry that is at the heart of the Church. In our ministry, we value and celebrate:

- Teaching and living our Catholic faith.
- Our Catholic traditions.
- Our ability to offer a full range of educational programs for all students.
- That every child is a unique creation who possesses an intrinsic dignity which must always be respected.
- Parents as primary educators. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.

## Our Principles of Practice

In our ministry we are called, always and everywhere, to:

- Model Christ
- Prayer
- Service
- Strive for Excellence
- Build Community
- Provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment for staff and students.

## Our Commitment

The Catholic Church teaches that:

- a) Respect for the human person entails respect for the rights that flow from their dignity as a person.  
n. 1930 Catechism of the Catholic Church
- b) Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that "everyone should look upon his neighbor (without any exception) as 'another self,' above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity."  
n. 1931 Catechism of the Catholic Church
- c) The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Mt. 25:40)  
n. 1932 Catechism of the Catholic Church
- d) With respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent.  
n. 1935 Catechism of the Catholic Church

Given these teachings and that which is embedded in the:

- a) Alberta Human Rights Act;
- b) School Act (Education Act);
- c) Alberta Bill of Rights;
- d) Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- e) The Alberta Act (1905);

and guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education affirms the rights, as provided for in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, of each staff member employed by the board and students enrolled in a school operated by the board and is committed to ensuring that all students and their families of our community will be provided with:

- a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, Catholic learning environment that respects diversity and nurtures a sense of belonging for staff and students; Staff and students will not be discriminated against as provided for in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* or the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- an inclusive community that teaches care and compassion;
- spiritual, physical, academic, emotional and social development, which allows students to achieve their individual potential;
- an educational environment which fosters respectful and responsible behaviors free from discrimination, prejudice, harassment and bullying;
- meaningful and relevant learning experiences that include appropriate instructional supports and meaningful differentiation to inform programming.

Nothing in this policy or any policy or administrative procedure of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is to be interpreted so as to limit or be a waiver of the Medicine Hat Catholic School Board's rights and powers pursuant the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools. If any of the provisions in this policy or any policy or administrative procedure of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education conflict with the Medicine Hat Catholic's Board's rights and powers pursuant to the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools, the Medicine Hat Catholic School Board's rights and powers pursuant the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools will govern.

## Translating Ideas into Actions

### We are called to model Christ

#### **We are called to model Christ**

Christ's Life and Teaching Serve as our Foundation

- We provide an education based on the teachings of Christ:
  - ◆ What would Jesus do? How did He act when faced with challenge or adversity?
  - ◆ We look for the lesson in every situation.
  - ◆ Empty yourself of your "self".
  - ◆ We make time for prayer.
- We provide a Christian environment.
  - ◆ We nurture each student in a positive, caring, and safe learning environment.
  - ◆ We work out of love not fear.
  - ◆ We are constant in our love and actions.
  - ◆ We ensure the equality of opportunity for each child and a respect for individual differences.

### We are called to be Prayerful

#### **We are called to be Prayerful**

Prayer Brings us into a Better Relationship with God and Others

- It is a way of life in our Catholic faith.
  - ◆ Our Catholic faith permeates all that we do.
  - ◆ We celebrate the traditions of Church.

### We are called to Service

#### **We are called to Service**

Service is an Extension of Modeling Christ

- We need to celebrate our ability to serve.
  - ◆ We find joy in service. It is in giving that we receive.
- We are faith leaders, modeling Christian values.
  - ◆ We practice Christian Leadership.
  - ◆ Actions speak louder than words.
- We encourage our students to practice Christian service.
  - ◆ We need to increase the level of awareness of the service we do already.
  - ◆ We can perform different kinds of service.

## We are called to Strive for Excellence

### **We are called to Strive for Excellence**

Excellence is the Essence of Who We Are

- It fits with our vision and mission.
- It is about reaching individual potential—being the best we can be.
  - ◆ Our schools promote spiritual, physical, academic, emotional and social development, which allows everyone to achieve their God-given potential.
- Facilitating opportunities for growth and promoting best teaching practices.
- Opportunity to live what we believe.

## We are called to Build Community

### **We are called to Build Community**

We Build on our Individual and Collective Strengths

- Building community is an extension of our Mission and our faith.
- Building community sets the stage for everything else we do.
- Our students are supported by parents, parish and community
- Our schools work together for the benefit of the community.
- Our schools welcome everyone.
- We need relationships and networks to face the challenges we have.
- Working together we can do more.
- Community shows us we need each other and that we can seek out support.
- We can build on the strengths of others.

## We are called to provide a Safe & Caring Environment

### We are called to Provide

A Welcoming, Caring, Respectful And Safe Learning Environment

The Board is committed to ensuring that each student and staff member has access to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

### DISTRICT LOGO



**Logo Description-** Each item in the design is doubly symbolic in order to represent both: (a) Religious and (b) Educational Functions of the Board:

#### **Candle and Flame:**

- (a) The Presence of God
- (b) Passing on the Knowledge, Enlightenment

#### **The Book:**

- (a) The Bible, the Gospels and the Word of God
- (b) the tools the students access for Knowledge and Learning

#### **The Cross:**

- (a) Christ Centered Education
- (b) The Calling of Catholic Education in our District

#### Reference:

Alberta Human Rights Act  
 School Act (Education Act)  
 Alberta Bill of Rights  
 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.  
 Council of Catholic Superintendents Living Inclusion Faithfully for Everyone Framework (2018)  
 Council of Catholic Superintendents – A Resource for a Pastoral Approach Supporting and Guiding Students in Inclusive Communities – Gender Identity and Expression (2016)  
 CCSSA Commitment to Inclusive Communities (2014)  
 Catechism of the Catholic Church

Legal Reference: Section 8, 13, 39, 45, 45.1, 47, 60, 61, 78, 113 School Act

First Reading December 13, 2011  
 Second Reading March 13, 2012  
 Third Reading March 13, 2012

First Reading March 08, 2016  
 Second Reading March 08, 2016  
 Third Reading March 21, 2016

First Reading September 12, 2017  
 Second Reading September 12, 2017  
 Third Reading October 10, 2017

First Reading April 10, 2018  
 Second Reading April 10, 2018  
 Third Reading June 12, 2018