



St. Mary's School

School Plan

2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

St. Mary's school is a grade 7 - 9 school which offers French Immersion, a fee based Fine Arts Academy, and regular programming. We are located in South West Medicine Hat and have a population of 376 students. This year we are pleased that we have 2 Fine Arts classes in grade 8, and one in each of grade 7 and 9 for a total of 91 students pursuing this optional stream of programming. Students registered in this program receive specialized instruction in Art, Dance, Drama, Choral, and Band. Our French Immersion program has 25 students registered from grades 7 - 9. St. Mary's School's primary enrollment is generated from students transitioning from five Catholic elementary Schools in Medicine Hat (Mother Teresa, St. Michael's, St. Francis St. Louis, and Ecole St. John Paul II School) . We are one of two feeder schools to Monsignor McCoy High School along with our sister school Notre Dame Academy

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL and VICE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to another great year at St. Mary's school. As we continue to make adaptations and adjustments in response to the Covid-19 pandemic we do so knowing that your students are welcomed to a terrific school with staff who have their best interest at heart. I am very proud of the work and support we offered to our students and families in the previous school year and know that we are more prepared and efficient as a result of our own learning. Our teachers have demonstrated their own ability to learn and adapt as new and unprecedented situations have arisen in the past year.

St. Mary's is a school in motion. We are proud to offer our students exceptional opportunities to engage in learning beyond the classroom. This year we will see the return of our school musical, a hallmark of the St. Mary's Fine Arts program with the production of Matilda Jr. performed at the Esplanade Arts facility. Additionally, school sports leagues are planned to return with our full participation. Our school football, volleyball, basketball, badminton, cross country, and track and field teams will once again have the opportunity to compete with students from our neighboring schools and communities.

We continue to commit to providing the highest quality of Catholic education to our students and look forward to strengthening our community through the challenges and opportunities that this year presents.



MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is a publicly funded school division with over 2600 students in 9 schools: 6 elementary schools, 2 junior high schools and 1 high school.

Medicine Hat is located in Southeastern Alberta and is known as communities of choice. Also known as the sunniest city in Canada, Medicine Hat offers a low cost of living, many amenities and is an ideal place to raise a family.

Our school division ensures the integrity and enhancement of Catholic education. We are a faith-based community that strives to inspire and prepare our students to pray, to learn, to work, to live fully and serve God in one another. Our schools are immersed in faith, offering liturgies, masses, and many celebrations throughout the school year including "Faith Development Days" that enrich the lives of students, our parents and our staff.

Our division offers quality Catholic education with a focus on academic achievement and success for all students.

Our schools operate as professional learning communities through school success teams that promote effective schools in safe and caring environments. We offer strong core academic programming, diverse and inclusive fine arts programming, French immersion, comprehensive co-curricular programming and academy programming in fine arts and sports.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Our Mission

In partnership with family, church and community, we provide Catholic education of the highest quality to our students.

Our Vision

A gospel-centered community committed to learning excellence, Christian service, living Christ.

Our Motto

"Showing the Face of Christ to All"

Our Principles of Practice

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

- Model Christ
- Prayer
- Service
- Strive for Excellence

Our Values

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.
- The uniqueness of each child.

What do Medicine Hat Catholic schools represent?



Staff, students and families working together,
under our faith, with quality education as our foundation.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Grade	21-22	20-21	19-20	18-19	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14	12-13
French Immersion	25	22	27	25	31	32	33	26	30	19
7	119	127	122	112	99	105	103	112	130	78
8	129	120	130	107	110	95	105	148	86	143
9	128	117	128	113	105	114	124	86	130	114
Total	376	364	380	357	345	346	365	372	376	354

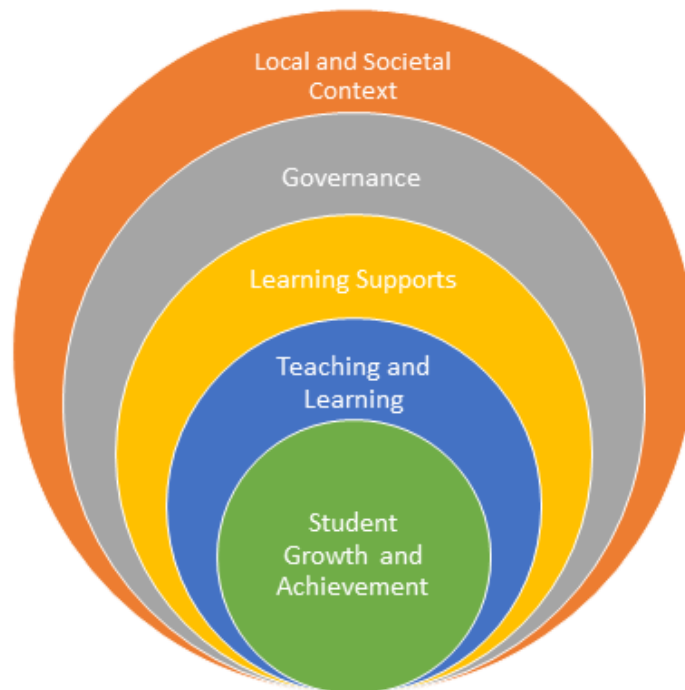
ASSURANCE

Assurance in the education system happens when community members, system stakeholders and education partners engage across five domains:

1. Student Growth and Achievement
2. Teaching and Leading
3. Learning Supports
4. Governance
5. Local and Societal Context

For the purposes of this document, a domain is an area of activity where education partners have specific responsibilities that they are accountable for and provide assurance about. Fundamentally, assurance is reflected in what the public understands, perceives and knows about student growth and achievement, where the quality of the daily interaction between teacher and student is paramount. Assuring the public that the education system is successfully supporting student growth and achievement requires engagement and thoughtful action across all five domains.

Student growth and achievement is the primary purpose of the education system and is the core outcome domain for the assurance framework. The domains of Teaching and Leading, Learning Supports and Governance support and enable Student Growth and Achievement. Local and Societal Context, while a separate domain, operates across and is integrated into the others. For the purposes of description, the domains are considered discrete and separate. However, in practice, they overlap and are interconnected and interdependent, as depicted in the graphic below:



ENGAGEMENT

Parent Advisory

At St. Mary's School we have transitioned away from our traditional parent council where historically this group would have raised funds to support various initiatives throughout the school. We have found that it was becoming increasingly difficult to attract parents during the extremely busy junior high school years. Last year we endeavoured to begin meeting with a group of parents in an advisory role. Each homeroom teacher has been asked to find a representative for this group so we could gain a wide variety of opinions. Our first year of this format was very successful. All meetings are conducted online via Google meets and allow for parents to attend from the comfort of their home or via an internet connected device from wherever their weeknight activities dictate (i.e. soccer practice, dance rehearsal, etc.)

Fine Arts Parent Council

St. Mary's School is fortunate to offer fine arts programming. Families are required to pay an additional programming fee to be part of our Fine Arts Academy. As such we feel it is imperative to connect with this group of parents to ensure that programming is meeting their expectations and for parents to offer further support to our programming. This group meets monthly and raises funds for the purchase of additional materials and larger projects within the Fine Arts Academy such as the piano in the Choral room, and new microphones used throughout our programming.

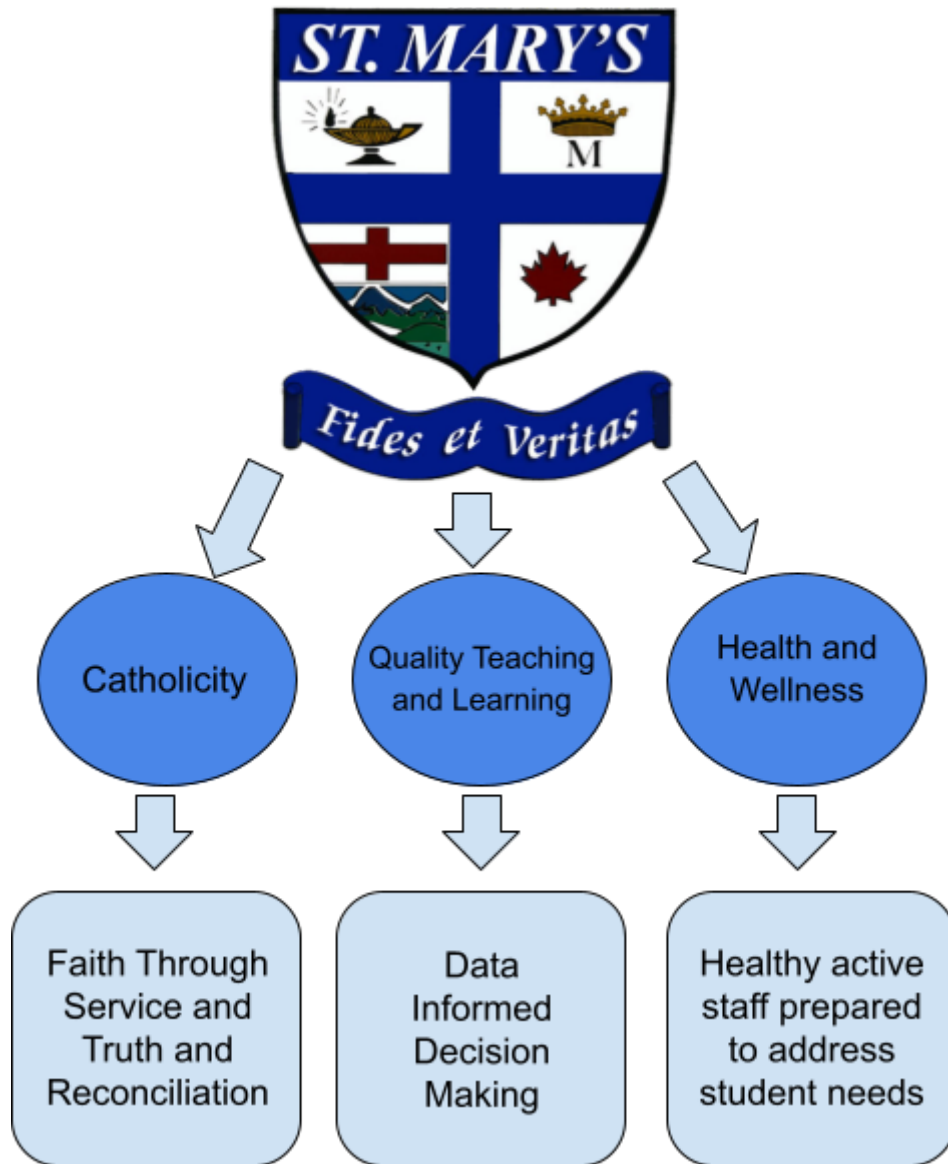
Survey's

Each year we endeavour to gain some additional data to further understand the successes and areas of improvement at our school. In the past we have conducted the Accountability Pillar Survey as well as an independent survey created by our school jurisdiction. We have considered the results of the survey and use this information to better prepare for the school year. We feel we are a school community that can adapt and meet the needs of our students quickly.

Service Projects

Every homeroom will have an opportunity to participate in a service project. These can be wide ranging and may include shoveling the neighborhood sidewalks after a snow storm, raising money for cancer, or assisting the women's shelter purple ribbon campaign. It is our intention that these projects are generated by the students and express the interests and concerns of our students which encourage them to engage with their community.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



SCHOOL GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICS



Goal #1 - Faith through service

Goal #2 - Truth and Reconciliation

Implementation Specifics:

- Each homeroom will organize a service project either in the school or in the community. Projects may include raising funds for cancer research, working with the Women's Shelter Purple Ribbon campaign, or shoveling snow in our neighborhood.
- Each homeroom will be part of a project encouraging Truth and Reconciliation With our First Nations community. This may include creating a school based land acknowledgement, sharing literature from a First Nations author, or creating artwork inspired by truth and reconciliation.

Outcomes:

1. *Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education students are successful.*



Health and Wellness

Goal #1 - Increase staff strategies for effective interventions with students.

Goal #2 - Provide staff opportunities to engage as a collective to participate in wellness activities focused on self care and physical wellbeing.

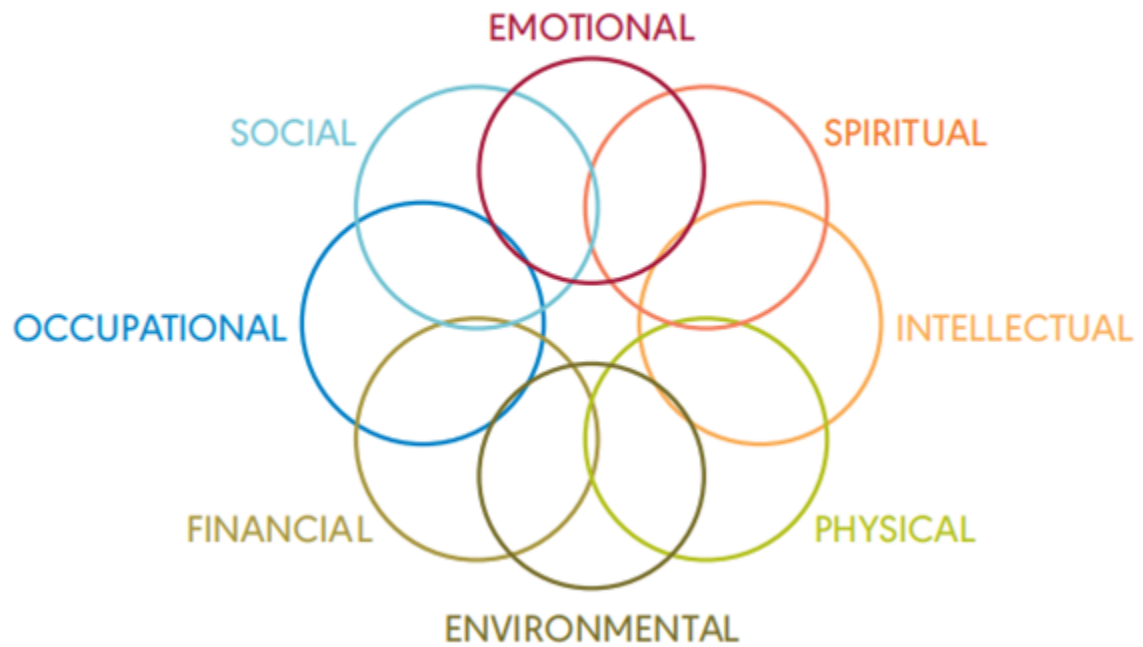
Implementation Specifics:

- **Provide Mental Health training to our staff members including but not limited to SIVA, Mental Health First Aid, ASSIST, and sessions provided by Canadian Mental Health.**
- **The School based Health and Wellness committee will organize several events throughout the year to connect with other staff members.**

Outcomes:

- 1. Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education students are successful.*
- 2. First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education are successful.*
- 3. Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education has excellent teachers, school leaders and school authority leaders.*

Health and Wellness Components





Quality Teaching and Learning

Goal #1 - Implement and utilize our data gathering system to improve student outcomes.

Implementation Specifics:

- Teachers will access and utilize information contained in the data gathering system to inform ISP creation and implementation.
- Administration will utilize information to ensure proper placement of student into appropriate programming i.e. Grade 9 students can access K and E Math and Language Arts, Students in 7 - 9 can access an academic support option.
- Staff can identify issues of concern for individual students between classes and encourage and implement supports.

Outcomes:

1. *Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education students are successful.*
2. *First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education are successful.*
3. *Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education has excellent teachers, school leaders and school authority leaders.*
4. *Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is well governed and managed.*

ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR

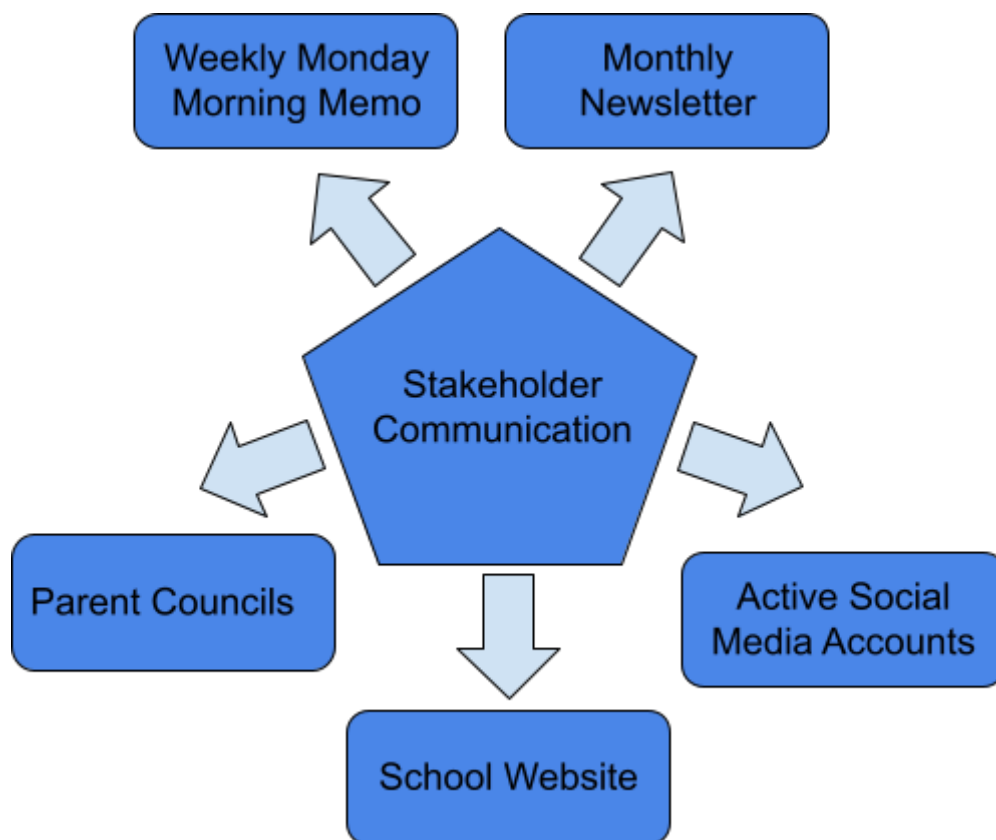
RESPONDING TO ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR RESULTS

School Strategies by Measure	Indicators of Success
Safe and Caring Schools	St. Mary's School thrives on a community of inclusion where students can feel safe attending school. Of note we have seen a sharp rise in parents reporting that they feel safe sending their children to school: 78% to over 95% in this reporting term.
Student Learning Opportunities	This school year we have added many new option classes for our students to better meet their interests. This includes a games option, archery, cosmetology, robotics, and fitness. Additionally we are pleased that both parents and teachers feel that students can access support when they are needed in a timely manner as is indicated in the survey results.
Student Learning Achievement	NA
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, Citizenship, World of Work	There is an increase from 75% to over 88% of parents who report that St. Mary's School is preparing their students for the world of work. There is evidence of our efforts in providing new options this year as well as a new flex block in our schedule that allows teachers to instruct skills like typing and computer programming. Skills which we believe necessary for the ever changing employment environment.
Parental Involvement	89% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunity to be involved in the opportunity to be involved in decisions at our school. Additionally there is a 17% increase in teachers in the previous 2 years who are satisfied (78% to 95%) with parental involvement in their children's education. This indicated a concerted effort from our staff to connect with parents and value their input when making decisions regarding the students in their care.

Continuous Improvement	Parents and teachers report that they feel the quality of education continues to improve at St. Mary's School. The school staff continued to provide exceptional educational experiences for our students throughout the pandemic while having to move to remote/online learning on multiple occasions throughout the year.
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COMMUNICATION

Stakeholders are communicated with in a variety ways through our school:



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