

# St. Mary's School

## School Plan

### 2022-2023

## 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 409 students. This year we are pleased that we have 89 Students registered in our fine arts 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!

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 continue to be prepared and more efficient as a school team to address the emerging needs of our students. Our teachers have demonstrated their own ability to learn and adapt to provide exceptional programming to our students. .

St. Mary's School is always busy with unique opportunities for our students. This year we will once again offer 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 and teams are back again this year. 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

<b>Grade</b>	<b>22-23</b>	<b>21-22</b>	<b>20-21</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>17-18</b>	<b>16-17</b>	<b>15-16</b>	<b>14-15</b>	<b>13-14</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>French Immersion</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>376</b>

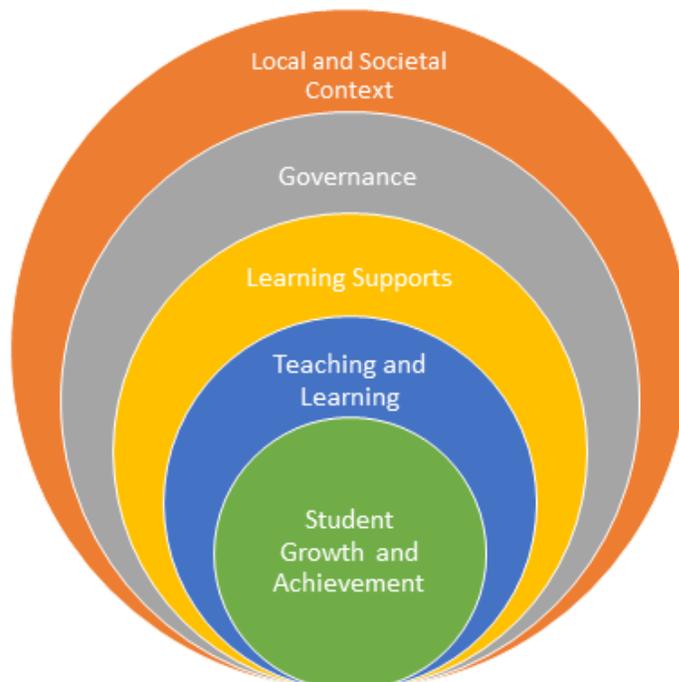
## ASSURANCE

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 Learning
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 Learning, 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. We have endeavored 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 two years of this format have been 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.

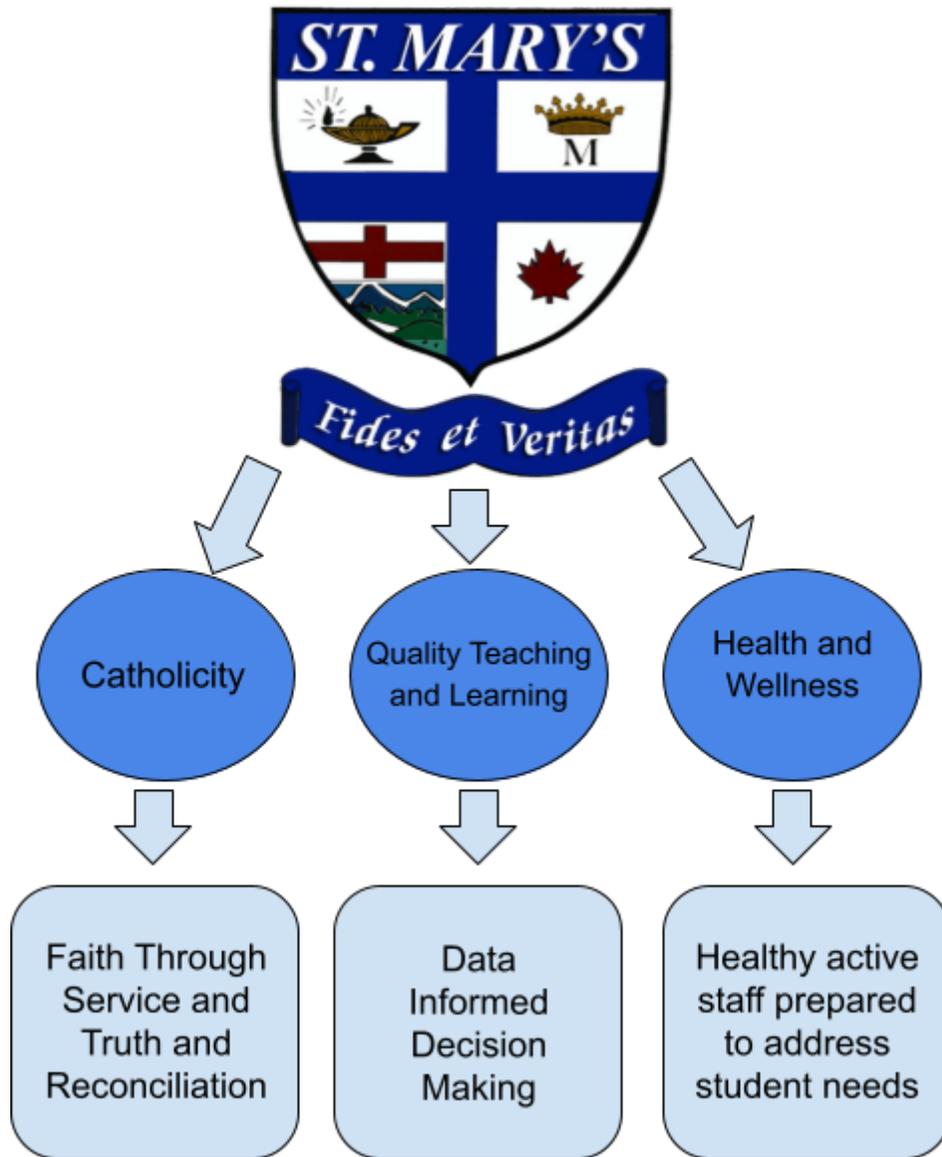
## **Survey's**

Each year we endeavor 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.**

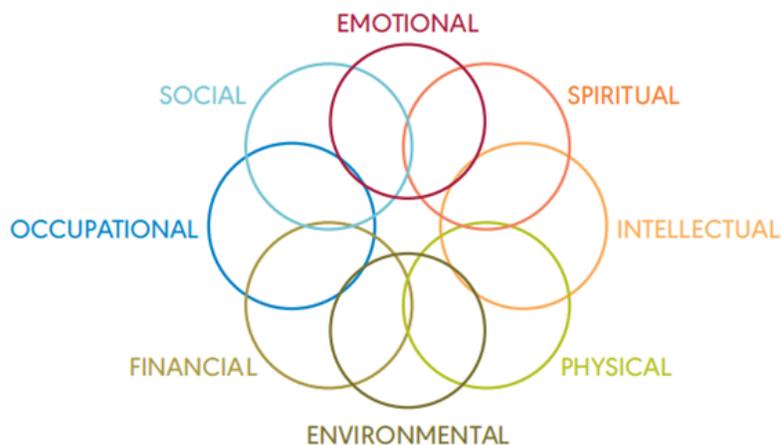
### **Implementation Specifics:**

- Provide Mental Health training to our staff members including but not limited to SIVA, Mental Health First Aid, ASSIST, and SafeTalk Suciide Intervention training.
- 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

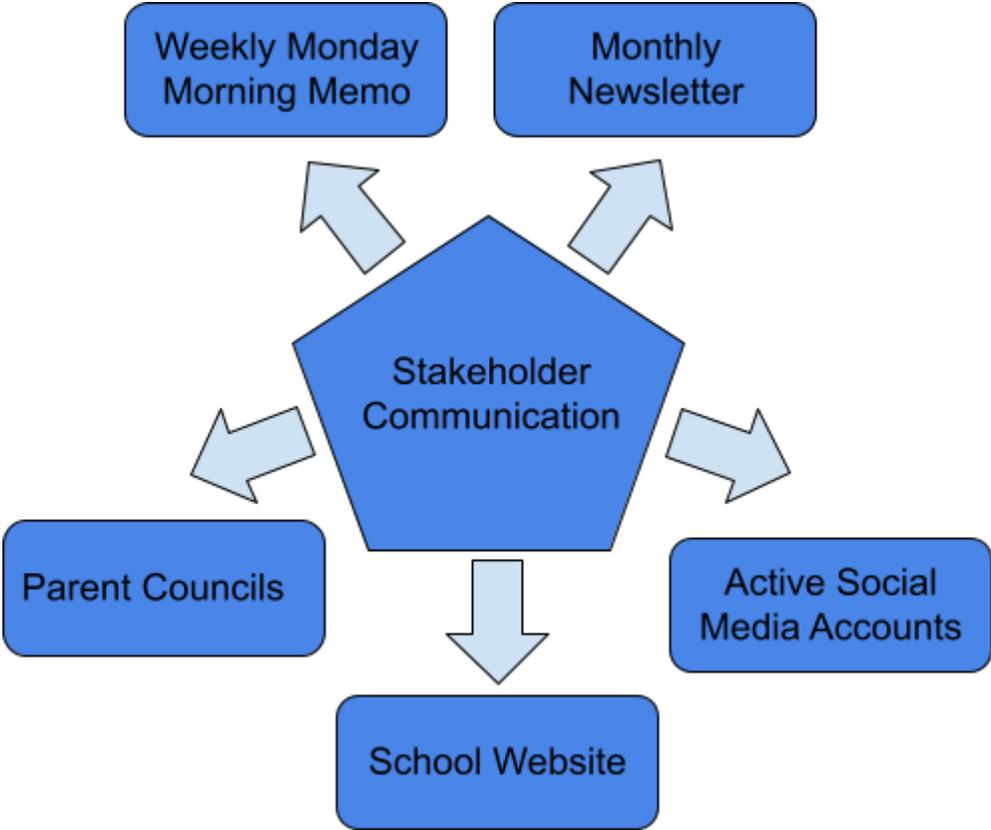
## RESPONDING TO ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR RESULTS

<b>School Strategies by Measure</b>	<b>Indicators of Success</b>
<b>Safe and Caring Schools</b>	St. Mary's School thrives on a community of inclusion where students can feel safe attending school. Of note 82% of our students, an increase from 80% report feeling safe at school and 84 % report feeling safe on their way to and from school. 94% of our students report that their teachers are "good" or "very good".
<b>Student Learning Opportunities</b>	In the past few years 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.
<b>Student Learning Achievement</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Preparation for Lifelong Learning, Citizenship, World of Work</b>	94% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied that their students are taught knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for learning throughout their lifetime. 85% of our parents report that their student is being encouraged to be involved in their community and 92% report that their student is encouraged to try their best. We feel these are all encouraging endorsements of the culture we are attempting to cultivate at St. Mary's School.
<b>Parental Involvement</b>	We have seen an increase from 44% to 62% of parents who report being involved in "A Lot" or "Some" in the educational decisions regarding their student from the previous year. 93% of teachers are satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunity to be involved in the opportunity to be involved in decisions at our school. 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. Nearly

	<p>70% of our Parents are satisfied or very satisfied with their opportunities to be involved in the education decisions of their students in our school.</p>
<b>Continuous Improvement</b>	<p>Students 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 with 93% of our staff reporting that they feel the quality of education has continued to improve or stay the same in the last three years. 83% of our students report that the quality of education has improved or stayed the same in the last three year. This is encouraging as well believe we have added many new experiences for our students and continue to evaluate our programming successes and needs every year.</p>

# COMMUNICATION

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



# CONTACT US

Nick Gale  
Principal  
403-527-7616  
[www.stmarymh.ca](http://www.stmarymh.ca)

Brad van Middelkoop  
Vice Principal  
403-526-7616  
[www.stmarymh.ca](http://www.stmarymh.ca)