



Medicine Hat Catholic  
Board of Education

# St. Francis Xavier School

## School Plan

2022-2023



*"Strong Inside Strong Outside"*

## INTRODUCTION

St. Francis Xavier School has a school population of 114 in grades K-6. We are also proud to offer both a morning and an afternoon Early Learning Program (ELP). This program is designed for children who are either not school aged or wish to attend ½ day in addition to their morning kindergarten programming.

We are home to Southern Alberta's only grades 4-6 Sports Academy, which promotes an active lifestyle both within the school and outside of school hours. Our multi-sports Academy challenges our students to engage in activities that promote inclusivity, such as: wheelchair basketball, rock climbing, and water polo, while also focusing on traditional sports like baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball. The Academy runs for two afternoons every week, using facilities at the school, Monsignor McCoy High School, Big Marble Go Centre and throughout the Medicine Hat community. The optional Sports Academy program aligns with the school's dedication to an increase in physical literacy and is taught by teachers and community supports.

St. Francis School is lucky to have assistance from outside service agencies around our city to support the needs of all our children. Occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, counselors, Community Coming Together (CCT), Medicine Hat Police, and Big Brother and Big Sisters are all integral parts of our school community. By working together, we support the needs of all students while embracing their personality and self growth.

The promotion of an active healthy lifestyle can also be seen in our Alberta Education Nutrition program, ongoing work with Ever Active Schools, daily physical activity, and our out of school care (OSC) program. We are lucky enough to have support for daily breakfast for all students in need of one. As we strive to be an active school community, nutrition and a healthy balanced diet help us reach this goal. In addition, students who need morning or afternoon out of school care are able to do so while engaging in various activities throughout this time.

We are also proud of our diverse learners here at St. Francis. As the education system changes to accommodate the average learner, students who struggle with self-regulation, English Language Learners (ELL) and students with significant needs and disabilities, as does St. Francis School. We offer students the opportunity to strive for excellence, in whatever capacity that may look like for that given student.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

At St. Francis Xavier School we envision a place where students, staff, parents, and community form a Christian family. We work to ensure that the individual needs of students are met in an atmosphere of Faith, Hope, Trust and Love. St. Francis himself told us to 'Be great in small things', and that is what we strive to do on a daily basis. All students are unique and made in the image of God. It is our job as a staff here at St. Francis to find a student's strength, and strive for excellence. We want our children to grow into not only great students but influential community ambassadors.

Our school community is one filled with fantastic parental support. Our Parent Council is actively involved and supports the needs of our students, just as the staff here at St. Francis is called to do. We welcome all parents to continue to support our school and become actively involved in your child's education. As educators, it is integral that communication from the school to home is one of positivity and trust. Parents and guardians, you put your children in our hands. I want to assure you that we will cherish them and work with you to help support them in any way possible.

Our goal for the 2022-2023 will be to continue our philosophy of 'Strong Inside Strong Outside'. By continuing to grow in our faith as a school community, we will build a strong foundation for success within ourselves. Continuing our work with the Zones of Regulation curriculum, we will continue the common language amongst staff and students on self-regulation and emotional control. Our physical literacy initiatives will ensure students are given the best chance at success both inside and outside of the classroom. In all that we do this year, we will be looking for the kindness that is in all of us and work to become more like the saints, as we are all called to be. Let us work together to strengthen ourselves and our children this school year.

God Bless,



**Ryan Irving**  
Principal

# 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	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20	18-19	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14
<b>K</b>	15	14	16	13	16	13	18	8	24	18
<b>1</b>	17	15	16	18	14	18	6	21	19	18
<b>2</b>	16	17	17	13	18	8	22	15	23	14
<b>3</b>	17	16	12	16	9	19	14	21	15	19
<b>4</b>	16	10	18	14	18	12	18	16	19	23
<b>5</b>	13	22	14	21	13	15	18	21	26	18
<b>6</b>	20	17	22	10	16	14	23	18	16	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114</b>	111	115	105	104	99	119	120	142	122

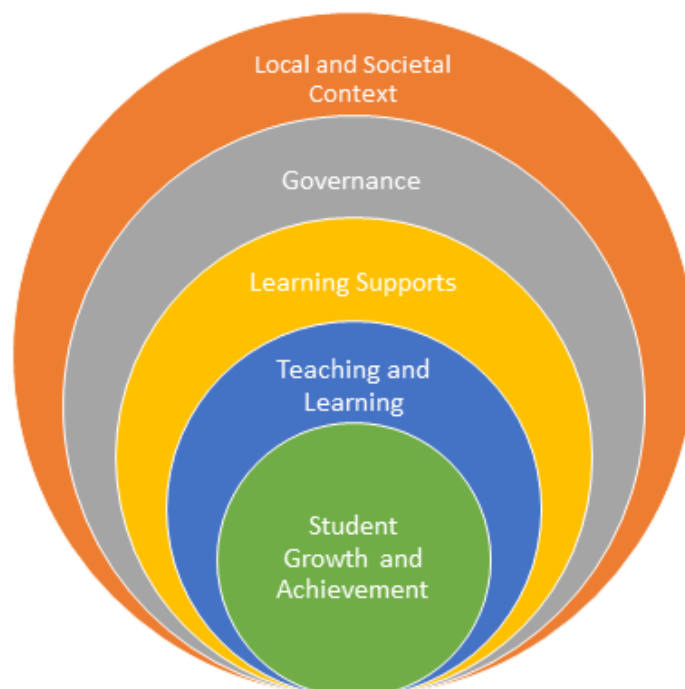
## ASSURANCE

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:



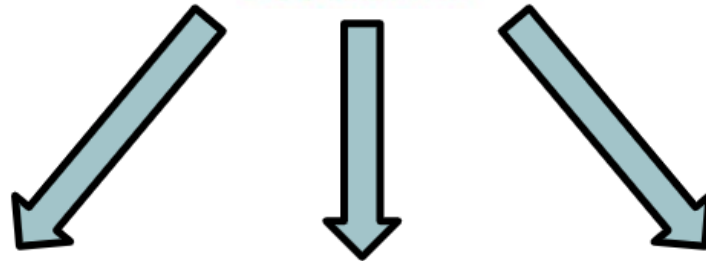
# ENGAGEMENT

- Consistent Communication
  - School Website
    - Calendar
    - Regular Updates/Notices
  - Monthly Newsletter
  - Social Media Updates on all platforms
  - Parent Distribution (Email) List
    - Weekly Announcements
    - Programming Updates
    - Procedure Communications
    - Emergencies
  - Classroom Communication
    - Google Classrooms
    - Student Agendas
    - Class Dojo
- Parent Council
  - Meetings
  - Volunteer Opportunities
  - Fundraisers
  - Classroom activities/events
- School Events
  - Meet the Teacher/Principal Barbecue
  - Christmas Dinner and Mass
  - Christmas Concert
  - Valentines Dance
  - In-Person Parent/Teacher Interviews
  - Book Fair
  - Spelling Bee
  - Year End Fun Day
  - Celebrations
    - Masses
    - Liturgies
- Student Leadership Opportunities
  - Student Council
  - AMA Safety Patrols
  - Milk Delivery



- Lunch Monitors
- Prayer Leaders
- Leadership Committee
- Division Faith Leaders
- Recycling Program
- Team/Clubs
  - Co-Ed Basketball
  - Hockey Club
  - Excellence Program
  - Sports Academy

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Catholicity

- Kindness & caring theme
- Meaningful prayer & reflection
- Parental engagement in faith journey



### Quality Teaching & Learning

- Increased literacy & numeracy focus
- Meaningful reading lives for all



### Health & Wellness

- ZONES of regulation engagement
- Promotion of physical literacy & healthy active lifestyle



# SCHOOL GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICS



## Catholicity

### Goal #1

To promote and recognize kindness and caring for all staff and students.

### Goal #2

To allow students the opportunity to grow in their faith by actively participating in meaningful prayer and reflection.

### Goal #3

Engage the parent community of St. Francis by promoting a healthy active faith journey with their children

### Implementation Specifics:

- Kindness Champions awards for good works around the school
- Presentations promoting Kindness Champions and their work within the school
- Allow students to participate in prayer throughout the day over the announcements, within their classrooms and by promoting faith leadership opportunities
- Engage staff, students and parents in assemblies by providing hands-on activities that promote a healthy active faith journey
- Prayer leaders for assemblies (student led group)
- 'Strong Inside Strong Outside' motto emphasized
- Faith portion of Parent Council meetings will be meaningful and promote faith growth

### Outcomes:

1. Staff, students and parents will recognize one another as Kindness Champions within the school community
2. Parents will grow in their faith journeys as active members within the school and church
3. All staff and students continue to embrace the 'Strong Inside Strong Outside' motto and truly grow closer to God through daily prayer and reflection within the school community



# Health and Wellness

## Goal #1

To use Zones of Regulation as a model to foster regulation and emotional control.

## Goal #2

To engage in physical literacy and promote a healthy active lifestyle.

## Implementation Specifics:

- Continue Zones of Regulation lessons that guide the teacher to promote self regulation and how to recognize this independently
- Guide students who struggle with regulation by engaging in activity breaks
- Regulation check-ins with students
- Continue relationship with Ever Active Schools (Done Walk in the Hallway initiative)
- Promote lessons that engage students in movement and body awareness
- Physical literacy component in assemblies and school events

## Outcomes:

1. Staff will learn and implement the Zones of Regulation curriculum designed to foster self-regulation and emotional control
2. Students will recognize the Zones and engage in activities to help themselves with self-regulation within the classroom
3. Physical literacy will be embraced by all staff and students while understanding the importance of becoming physically literate

## Health and Wellness Components





# Quality Teaching and Learning

## Goal #1

To increase data collection of literacy and numeracy needs in Grades 1-6 while creating an intervention program for students who are struggling.

## Goal #2

To implement reading programs and provide resources that engage students and promote a meaningful reading life.

### Implementation Specifics:

- Continue our work with the Alberta Government 'Close the Gap' program (Grades 1-4)
- Pre and post assessments completed and documented signifying growth in both literacy and numeracy
- Programs in place for those struggling in areas of need
- Students accessibility to literacy and mathematics resources both in and outside of the classroom (Raz-Kids, Mathletics etc.)
- Reading buddy programs for K-6
- Designated **DEAR** (drop everything and read) time for all classrooms promoting independent reading
- Active participation of reading in assemblies and school events

### Outcomes:

1. Staff and students will embrace the school reading initiative and grow in their own 'Reading Life'
2. Literacy and mathematics focus will increase testing scores in provincial testing and report card scores
3. Reading will become a significant part of student life at St. Francis and visitors will witness the growth of all students' love for reading

## ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR

### St. Francis Xavier Alberta Education Assurance Measure Results (2022-2023)

Education Measure	Current Results	Previous Year	Alberta Average
1. Student Learning Engagement		84.5	
2. Citizenship		81.0	
3. Education Quality		95.0	
4. Parental Involvement		95.0	
5. Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments		85.5	
6. Access to Supports & Services		80.1	
7. Lifelong Learning	81.8	84.1	81.0
8. Programs of Studies (access)	76.6	86.9	73.0
9. Safe and Caring	90.5	89.0	89.2

## RESPONDING TO ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR RESULTS

### School Strategies by Measure

### Indicators of Success

<p><b>Safe and Caring Schools</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff participate in faith permeation activities</li> <li>● Staff keep up to date on safety certifications</li> <li>● Students engage in Catholic virtue activities that promote a safer school atmosphere</li> <li>● Students recognized for kindness shown towards one another</li> <li>● Staff and students access supports within the school</li> <li>● Access to community supports promoted to students in need</li> <li>● Regular drills for staff and students on emergency protocols</li> <li>● Clubs and teams formed to promote inclusivity</li> </ul>
---------------------------------------	--

<p><b>Student Learning Opportunities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students in grades 4 -6 have the option to choose Sports Academy programming or attend the Excellence program where they will have a wide variety of learning experiences including cooking, robotics, photography, and yearbook design</li> <li>● Resources for both home and school to support ongoing success (ex. Raz-Kids, Mathletics, Prodigy)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student Learning Achievement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Data collection for grade 1-4 (pre and post assessment) in literacy and numeracy using government testing model</li> <li>● Intervention strategies and model implemented based on results of grade 1-4 testing</li> <li>● Learning growth achieved for all students K-6 using various literacy and numeracy programs (school and home access available)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Preparation for Lifelong Learning, Citizenship, World of Work</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students have the opportunity to volunteer as a student leader throughout the school including: milk program, recycling program, student council</li> <li>● Students have the opportunity to experience additional athletic pursuits through the sports academy</li> <li>● Students in the excellence program will have the chance to experience a variety of learning opportunities such as cooking, cosmetology, robotics, and photography and yearbook design</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parental Involvement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased attendance on parent council meetings</li> <li>● Volunteers for school initiatives</li> <li>● Parent council supports all of our major field trips and community classroom experiences</li> <li>● St. Francis will continue to have an active parent council who leads many initiatives and fundraising events throughout the year</li> <li>● Social media platforms used to show successes of students and the school</li> </ul>
<p><b>Continuous Improvement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers participate in professional development sessions and share their learning at the school</li> <li>● Academy and Excellence programs expand in registration and continue to develop new and exciting programming</li> </ul>

# COMMUNICATION

Stakeholders are communicated with in a variety of ways at St. Francis:



# CONTACT US

**St. Francis Xavier School**  
318 8th St NE  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 5R6  
403 527-7223

**Ryan Irving (Principal) - [ryan.irving@mhcbe.ab.ca](mailto:ryan.irving@mhcbe.ab.ca)**

**Follow Us:**

 <https://www.stfrancisxaverschool.ca/>

 @StFrancisMH

 @stfrancismh