



Medicine Hat Catholic  
Board of Education

GET IN THE GAME



*Notre Dame Academy*

School Educational Plan

2023-2024

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL and VICE PRINCIPAL

*On behalf of the Admin. Team at Notre Dame Academy (NDA), we want to express our gratitude for your continued support and interest in our school. We are proud to be one of the nine Catholic Schools within the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education (MHCBE).*

*At NDA, we offer a variety of innovative programs such as Lego-robotics, Rocketry, Carpentry, Plumbing, Gaming Concepts, Drama, Food Studies, Art, Outdoor Education, Esports and more to keep our students engaged. This year, we are introducing a new Archery program and a Graphic Design program, with plans for a Volleyball and Basketball Academy next year.*

*We value our community partnerships, including our strong collaboration with Medicine Hat College, which allows us to provide exceptional Industrial Arts programs. Our sports academy and sports teams has also been a great success, attracting interest from other districts. Additionally, we have partnerships with Under Armour and Source for Sports.*

*Our school focus revolves around building effective relationships, living our faith through service, and helping all students learn. We believe that open communication with all stakeholders is vital for further development and improvement.*

*We are thrilled to share the results contained in the attached report with you. Thank you once again for your support!*

*Neal Siedlecki (Principal) and Lon Bosch (Vice Principal)  
Admin. Team, Notre Dame Academy*



## 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 a community 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	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021 - 2022	2020-2021	2019 - 2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
			Pandemic	Pandemic						Dr. Roy Wilson Opened			
6	97	89	91	106	115	99	94	85	83	86	82	94	98
7	108	131	126	120	121	105	115	89	88	88	102	111	89
8	131	114	110	110	105	108	94	98	82	99	99	98	99
9	116	98	104	93	108	93	99	86	104	97	86	83	97
<b>TOTAL</b>	452	432	431	429	449	405	402	358	357	370	369	386	383



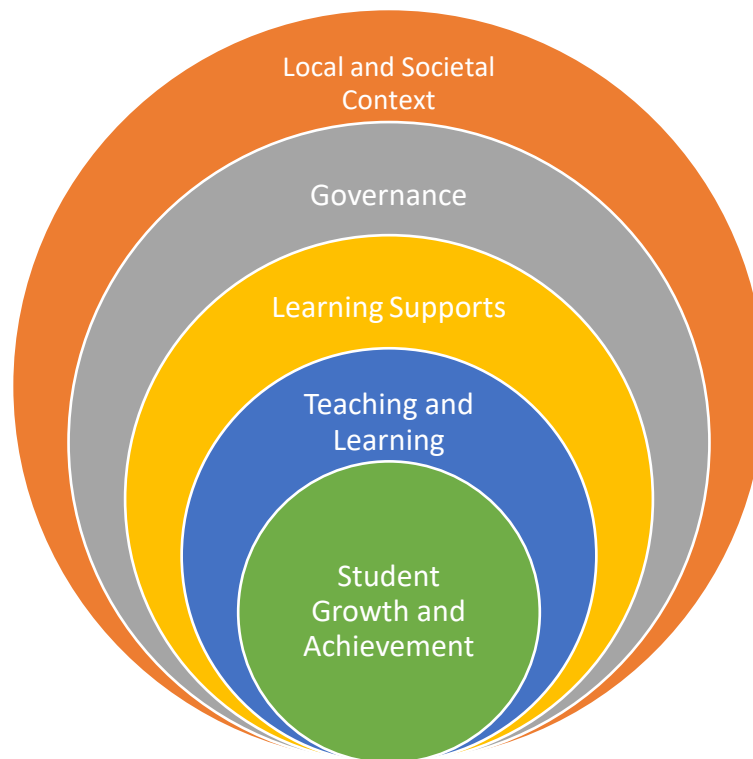
## ASSURANCE

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

According to various agencies, parent engagement in schools is crucial for the growth and well-being of our students.

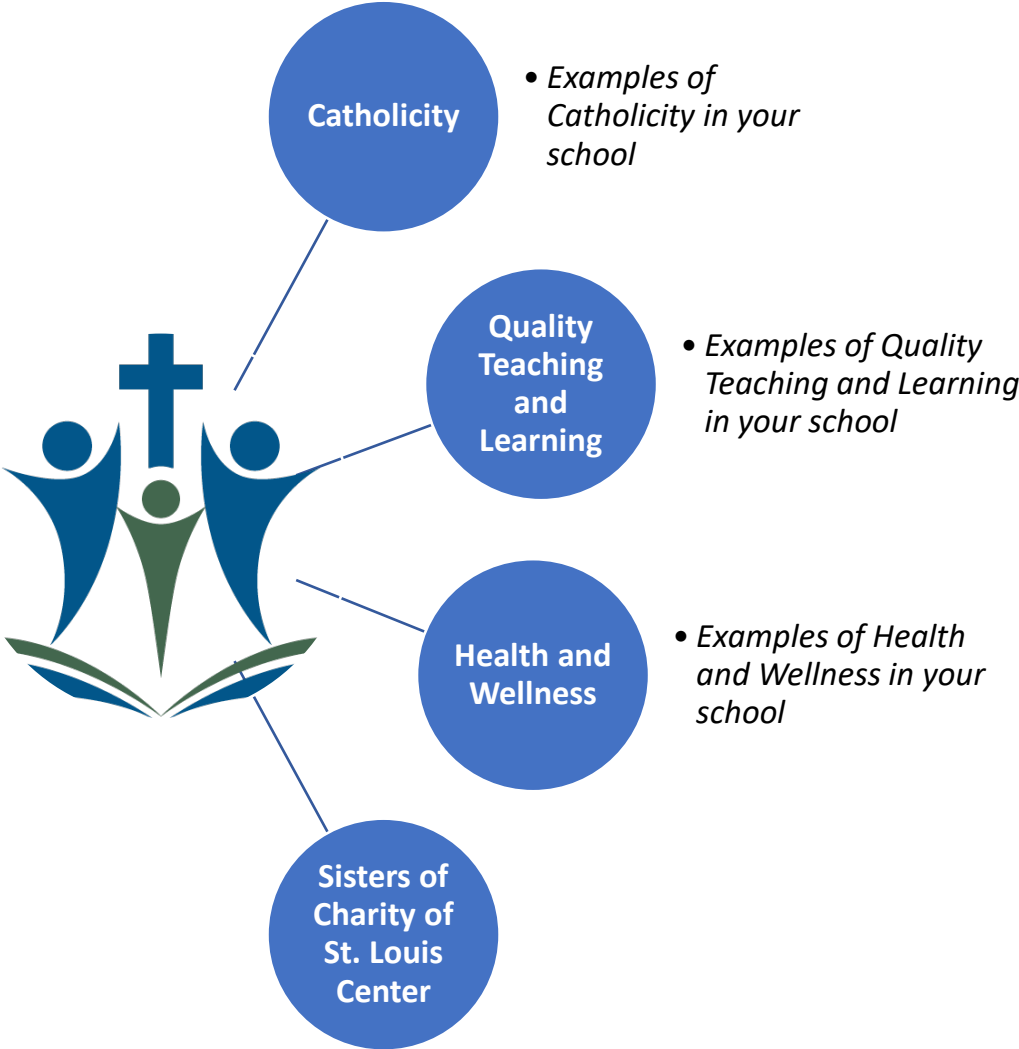
19 years ago, NDA was one of the first schools in Alberta and western Canada to look at ways to inspire students to come to school. Our academy programming was the beginning foundation at that time and now is the back bone of our school. We continue to see such growth in our academy programming to the point where approximately 80% of our students are enrolled in it. Our academy programming includes Baseball, Golf, Hockey and Soccer. Students at this age group are very involved in sports and our academy programming is a way to enhance that and to better our students' abilities both on and off the field, course or rink. Parents have been a big support of this as the program and seek it out leaving other districts to come to NDA.

Staying with sports, our parent community is very involved in NDA. Once again, team sport seems to be a very big part of students having a connection to our building and giving them a sense of belonging. We have had several parent coaches, tournament volunteers, concession workers, etc. that continue to make our sports programs sought out by our students.

Now moving away from sport, we have also through the many years of gathering data through surveys and such have determined that students tend to be engaged with hands on and real live activities. Through the help of many stakeholders, we have developed a partnership with the Medicine Hat College to offer an extensive shop program here at NDA. Too add to this, through the support of our parent and school community, we have developed a robotics centre, gaming concepts centre and a foods lab. This type of programming engages all students no matter of learning ability or interests.

Being a Catholic School, through the help of our parent community as well, we engage students in a wide variety of service projects. Each student will be involved in some form of service throughout the year. It is our goal to engage students in their faith in a way that they live their faith and not just read about it. Our parent community and staff want our students to LIVE the Way Jesus did and to do great acts of kindness like He did.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES





# SCHOOL GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICS



## **Goal #1**

To enhance and better our service projects.

## **Goal #2**

To find ways to better involve our School Chaplain BJ. His presence and guidance can greatly benefit our students.

## **Goal #3**

### **Implementation Specifics:**

- First, we will ask that each class be involved in some form of a service project for the year.
- We will examine the service projects we are already participating in and look at ways of enhancing them. (For example: Terry Fox Run – added an incentive of a hot dog lunch and a slush run for participating students and we raised more money for this great cause than ever.
- Student lead service projects – our Food Students on Spirit Days cook a hot lunch for the students to purchase. (For example: Western Wednesday – chilly Timber Tuesday – hamburger soup) From there, the students can decide which charity they would like the funds to go towards.
- Simple school wide service projects – Hats-On Fridays – students pay \$1.00 to wear their hats. From there, as a school community we decide where we would like our efforts to go to.
- Have our School Chaplain BJ become part of our LIVE LIKE THAT team. Have BJ create a menu of topics teachers to access that he is able and comfortable in discussing with students in the classroom. Involve BJ in all school activities as to build relations with our students.

### **Outcomes:**

1. *Students living our faith and not just reading about it.*
2. *Walking the Walk; Not Just Talking the Talk*
3. *Students have a sense of accomplishment in doing great things for others. In a sense, living the way Jesus would have wanted them to. Showing the Face of Christ to All.*



## Health and Wellness

**Goal #1**

Mentorship Program – giving New Staff the supportive community they need

**Goal #2**

Participating in Division and School Wide Health and Wellness programs.

**Goal #3**

Promote dialogue around the challenges of workplace well being

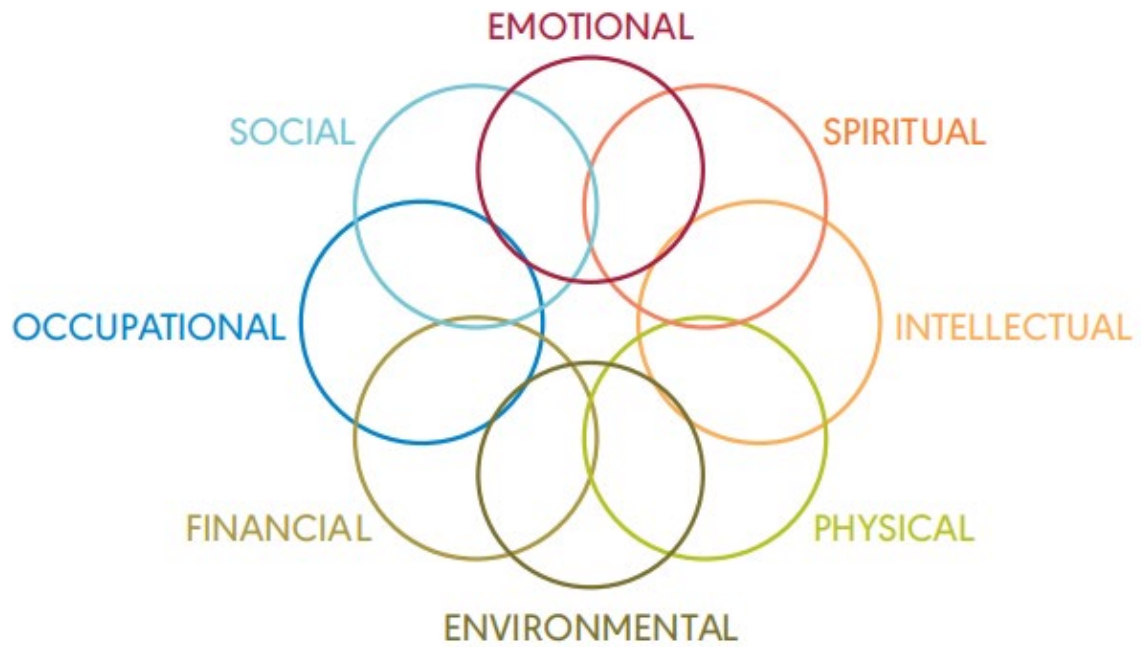
**Implementation Specifics:**

- All staff attended a Division Wide Health and Mental Wellness Day which was held at Medicine Hat College.
- To add to this, we plan to do 4 school wide activities around this area. (examples: guests speaker, team building activity (Camp McCoy Retreat, bowling, etc).
- NDA Staff Wellness and Faith Leadership Retreat – this was held at Camp McCoy in Elkwater – it consisted of sharing a meal together, team building activities, staff meeting, etc.
- Assigning mentors to all new staff members here at NDA – monitoring the progress of this.
- Tokens of appreciation – favourite beverage delivered to staff during Parent Teacher Interviews, staff meals together, etc.
- Collaborative Response Teams and Meetings – Division Wide Initiative
- Continue to support Homewood Health programming.

**Outcomes:**

1. *Less teachers feeling burnt out. Teachers implementing strategies into their daily lives to better their mental health.*
2. *Less sick days taken by staff.*
3. *More students feeling connected to our school.*
4. *More students being helped with their mental health needs by all stakeholders within the school and community*

# Health and Wellness Components





## Quality Teaching and Learning

**Goal #1**

Modifying and developing new programming to support the growing range of learner variability in our classrooms.

**Goal #2****Goal #3****Implementation Specifics:**

- Learning Support Teacher (Monique Hosanee) will lead our staff through collaborative support discussions on instructional and social-emotional practices that support the range of learners present in NDA classrooms.
- Learning Support Teacher (Monique Hosanee) will support teachers to design learning and implement accommodations, modifications, strategies and supports so all students can be successful classroom learners.
- A NEW Volleyball and Basketball Academy will be put into place. With the huge growth in club teams in this area, we feel that this is programming which our students could greatly benefit from.
- Implementing a NEW Archery Program. Students have shown great interest in this as other schools are offering it.
- Implementing a NEW Graphic Design Program. Students have shown great interest in this and we are working with Swirls to create a new flavoured milkshake. Students make posters for this new treat and the winner has their flavour put on sale for students to buy from Swirls in a hot lunch food day.
- Teachers will administer MIPI testing in Math. This assessment gives the teacher a clearer view of what their students strengths and weaknesses are. This will help teachers design math instruction for all students to be successful in their learning.
- Language Arts teachers will administer the Gates assessment to determine grade level comprehension and ability.

## Outcomes:

1. All students regardless of their learning abilities will feel success in their learning here at NDA.
2. Teachers will know how to identify, modify, and deliver programming to meet the needs of a broader range of learners.
3. NDA will continue to think out of the box in order to keep moving forward with programming to inspire and engage all students.

## ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR

School: 1229 Notre Dame Academy

Assurance Domain	Measure	Notre Dame Academy			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Student Growth and Achievement	<a href="#">Student Learning Engagement</a>	100.0	85.9	85.9	84.4	85.1	85.1	n/a	Improved	n/a
	<a href="#">Citizenship</a>	93.3	88.8	86.8	80.3	81.4	82.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	<a href="#">3-year High School Completion</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.7	83.2	82.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">5-year High School Completion</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.6	87.1	86.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">PAT: Acceptable</a>	86.4	88.5	n/a	63.3	64.3	n/a	Very High	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">PAT: Excellence</a>	15.7	25.2	n/a	16.0	17.7	n/a	Intermediate	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Diploma: Acceptable</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.3	75.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	<a href="#">Diploma: Excellence</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.2	18.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Education Quality</a>	98.1	89.1	90.7	88.1	89.0	89.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Learning Supports	<a href="#">Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)</a>	95.8	91.0	91.0	84.7	86.1	86.1	n/a	Maintained	n/a
	<a href="#">Access to Supports and Services</a>	93.2	82.8	82.8	80.6	81.6	81.6	n/a	Maintained	n/a
Governance	<a href="#">Parental Involvement</a>	65.9	73.2	79.1	79.1	78.8	80.3	Very Low	Maintained	Concern

School: 1229 Notre Dame Academy

Measure	Notre Dame Academy			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
<a href="#">Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.5	n/a	56.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
<a href="#">Drop Out Rate</a>	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	2.3	2.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<a href="#">In-Service Jurisdiction Needs</a>	n/a	87.0	87.5	82.2	83.7	84.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
<a href="#">Lifelong Learning</a>	84.6	83.4	78.4	80.4	81.0	76.8	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<a href="#">Program of Studies</a>	81.7	78.9	76.7	82.9	82.9	82.6	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<a href="#">Program of Studies - At Risk Students</a>	96.2	82.6	84.1	81.2	81.9	83.4	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<a href="#">Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	71.9	70.2	68.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
<a href="#">Safe and Caring</a>	97.7	92.9	90.9	87.5	88.8	89.1	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<a href="#">Satisfaction with Program Access</a>	78.6	69.7	72.9	72.9	72.6	73.9	High	Maintained	Good
<a href="#">School Improvement</a>	87.5	82.0	84.5	75.2	74.2	77.9	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
<a href="#">Transition Rate (6 yr)</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	59.7	60.3	60.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
<a href="#">Work Preparation</a>	88.9	87.6	88.3	83.1	84.9	84.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

## RESPONDING TO ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR RESULTS

Citizenship – it is no surprise to us that we continue to have Very High results with regard to citizenship here at NDA. We are a very community-based school in which all stakeholders feel the need to support one another and those around us.

Education Quality – We are thrilled to inform you that our recent results in this area have been outstanding. For the past three years, we have consistently seen improvement, and we are now almost at a 100% rating. We truly believe that this success is due to our students returning to a better routine after the challenges of Covid-19.

We also want to acknowledge our dedicated staff who have shown immense dedication and passion for their job. They are the driving force behind these amazing results.

Parental Involvement - Although we only received responses from 9 out of 120 Grade 7 families, we are aware that our parent community is actively involved in various ways. Our parents contribute through coaching, concession and tournament helpers, the hot lunch program, parent council, fundraising committees, guest speakers, and supporting special programs like the New Archery Program. It is evident that our parents are engaged and committed.

Moving forward, we will continue to find ways to involve parents and keep them informed. We will maintain our Week at Glance updates and encourage participation in our Parent Council Meetings for more input in decision-making.

Academic Results – After viewing this year’s AERR report, we are very pleased with our results. Overall, our students in Grades 6 and 9, achieved 20 to 30% higher on the acceptable standards and up to 10% higher on the excellence standards compared to the province in nearly all subject areas. We do continue to strive for add additional supports to help our students reach a higher standard of excellence. Summary chart below:

Subject	NDA Results	Provincial Results	NDA Results	Provincial Results
	Acceptable Standard	Acceptable Standard	Standard of Excellence %	Standard of Excellence %
	%	%		
LA 6	97	76	16	18
MATH 6	85	65	18	15
SCIENCE 6	92	66	32	21
SOCIAL 6	87	66	23	18
LA 9	91	71	16	13
MATH 9	77	54	12	13
SCIENCE 9	89	66	16	20
SOCIAL 9	83	58	10	15

## COMMUNICATION

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



## CONTACT US

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