



**Medicine Hat Catholic  
Board of Education**

# **Saint Louis School**

## **School Plan**

**2023-2024**



**Prepared by: R. Blackmer**

## INTRODUCTION

This school plan is a compilation of the ideals expressed by the staff, parents and guardians of St. Louis School in conjunction with the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. As expressed by our Board, this plan particularly focuses on three strategic priorities:

1. Catholicity - growing in the practice of our faith
2. Health and Wellness - physical, mental and emotional well-being
3. Quality Teaching and Learning - best teaching practices and optimal learning

The strategies within this plan are designed to meet the needs of our distinct school community and are specifically meant to provide our students with a high degree of Catholic education that will serve them well throughout their lives. As we endeavor to educate our students through our faith, present and foremost in all that we do, students will receive high quality of educational instruction in academics as well as in physical literacy, social understanding and emotional well-being.



# Principal's Message



St. Louis is a very unique school within the MHCBE. We are, by population, the smallest school in our district but historically, the oldest Catholic school, housed in the oldest operating school building in Medicine Hat, built in 1906. We are very proud of our Catholic heritage and our namesake, in honour of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, the first formal Catholic Educators in Medicine Hat. Our school specifically serves the Catholic students from the Flats area and the SW and SE Hill areas of Medicine Hat, but accepts all students from any denomination from any area of the city who request to attend. Our current student population is exactly 101, not including our students from the Early Learning Program which account for 8 additional children. It is a blessing and pleasure to be the appointed administrator of St. Louis School for my fourth year. This school is composed of dedicated professionals, supportive parents and truly amazing students who take great pride in our learning community!





## **MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is a publicly funded school division with over 2700 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 in 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: Current Year 101 students total

Grade	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20	18-19	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15
K	14	13	14	14	14	20	18	31	11	12
1	16	17	16	10	20	20	25	18	18	7
2	14	14	9	15	17	15	19	12	8	16
3	12	8	17	17	16	17	12	8	16	12
4	10	18	15	13	17	11	8	14	13	13
5	16	17	16	12	12	8	13	11	11	12
6	19	13	13	12	5	10	13	12	12	9



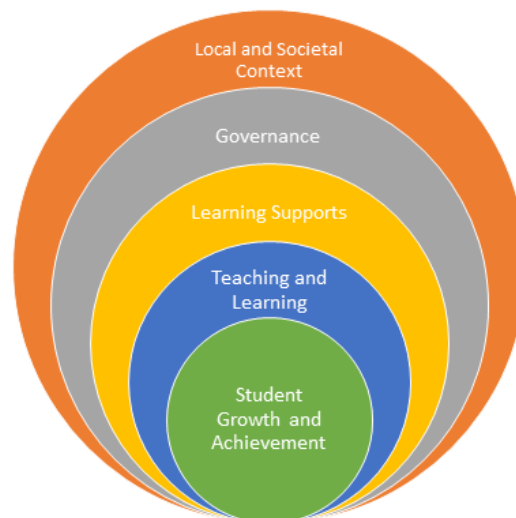
## ASSURANCE

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

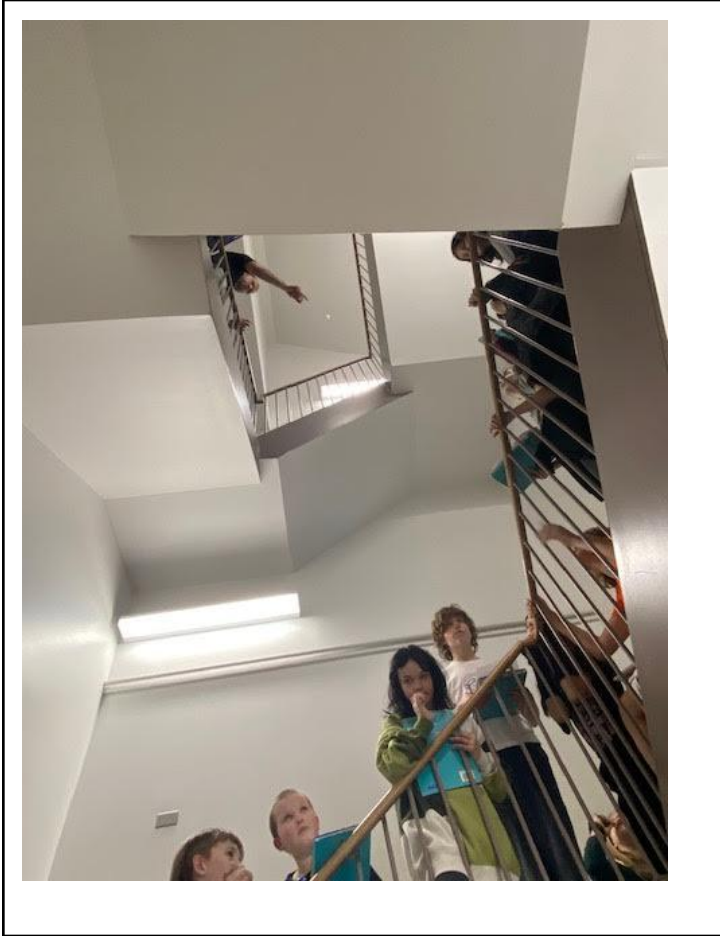
Student Engagement at St. Louis School will be facilitated through the following strategies:

- Best Practices of teacher instruction
- Small grouping, straight grade level mathematics classes for all students
- Incorporation of the UFLY Phonetic approach to reading
- Opportunities for pupils in grades 5-6 to demonstrate leadership skills in the Student Leadership Group as well as student faith leadership representatives
- Teaching practices that include accommodations, adaptations and a variety of forms for assessment
- AMA Safety Patrol Program for grades 5 and 6 students
- Intramural program for grades 1-6, Games Club for grades 4-6 and Drama Club grades 4-6.
- Classroom Support Teacher interventions and initiatives for all grades



***College Program Ever Active Schools***





***Grade Six Science - Flight***

**Parent/Guardian Engagement at St. Louis School will be facilitated through the following strategies:**

- Third year offering licensed Out of School Care Program. (This year including AM)
- Monthly Collaborative Planning Circle meetings (CPC) that involved the parents/guardians of our at risk students and the professional involvement of our School Liaison Counsellor, Occupational Therapist, Speech Pathologist, Inclusive Learning Consultant, Teachers, Learning Assistants, Principal and Associate Superintendent
- An active and welcoming School Council with the option of attending in school meetings or participating virtually online via Google Meets which encourage parental involvement
- Scheduled phone in parent-teacher conferences
- Small group meetings in person after school hours
- Assisting parents with medical appointments, participating in conference calls with pediatricians or other physicians
- Encouraging parent participation in the Assurance Survey or other methods of data gathering
- Regular phone calls and “check-ins” with struggling parents requiring additional supports and communication with the school
- Assisting parents/guardians with Early Learning Program fee reductions if necessitated
- Implementation of home reading programs, or online programs that benefit greatly from parental involvement in the home
- UFLY - Home practice program (grades 1-3)
- Classroom communication through emails, Classroom Dojo
- Inviting parents to assemblies
- Parents volunteers



***Bingo Night***

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## SCHOOL GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICS



### Catholicity

**Outcome #1:** Enhanced relationships between school, parish and community.

**Outcome #2:** Enhanced faith formation of staff.

**Outcome #3:** Enhanced student faith formation through permeated Catholicity in our schools (instruction, celebrations and activities).

#### Performance Measures:

- Student of the Week as part of each Google meet assembly
- Terrific Kids held monthly with the sponsorship of Gas City Kiwanis
- **Corporal Works of Mercy theme and education/Service-Mission Projects**
- Google assemblies, Advent Live, Lent Live
- Monthly visitations to each classroom during religious studies for a specific intended purpose previously discussed with the classroom teacher
- Attendance of Mass four times a year (School opening, Advent, Lent, and Year End)
- Retreats for grades five, six and possibly three students held each year at St. Patrick's
- Weekly assemblies focusing on Gospel readings, liturgical year, song and prayer
- Connecting with the parish community through Mass, church tours, grade five visit from the priests, reconciliation, blessing of the school each October through the Consecration to the Blessed Virgin
- **Visits from the Seeds of the Word Sisters and Brothers (Possible Lent visit).**
- Catholicity through the fine arts (Drama, art, music).
- Staff morning prayer every Monday morning.
- Faith Sharing at Staff Meetings



***Grade Five Retreat - Prayer***



***Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Lent***



***Grade Five Retreat  
with Chaplain BJ Grove***



***School Sponsored Mass  
with Fr. Roque***





## Health and Wellness

**Outcome #1:** A healthy staff and workplace culture. Increased communication, connectedness and wellness opportunities for staff.

**Outcome #2:** A health and wellness committee led by wellness champions across the division.

**Outcome #3:** A 3-year Health and Wellness Plan created by the division Health and Wellness Committee.

### Performance Measures:

- Weekly presence of CCT at our school
- **School Liaison Counsellor twice weekly at our school**
- Facilitation of medical appointments for our students
- **First annual St. Louis Faith and Wellness Fair**
- Designated Wellness champion in the school
- Staff participation in Wellness activities (Ax Throwing)



*Faith and Wellness Day - May 2023*



# Quality Teaching and Learning

**Outcome #1:** Staff has explored and expanded their repertoire of effective and responsive planning, instruction, and assessment practices that inclusively support access, engagement, growth, and success for all K-12 students.

**Outcome #2:** Children entering grade 1 have experienced opportunities for emotional, social, intellectual, and physical growth as a result of participation in inclusive, accessible, developmentally appropriate early learning programming.

**Outcome #3:** Leadership opportunities are provided for division leaders, those serving in formal leadership positions as well as those teachers striving to improve leadership potential.

**Outcome #4:** First Nations, Métis, Inuit NMI students are supported in the division and students and staff are educated about truth and reconciliation.

## Performance Measures:

- Leveled Literacy Intervention targeted for those students most strongly identified as below grade level in reading and comprehension.
- Increased communication with parents of low level students through phone calls, emails and meetings.
- Purchasing of the UFLY and other programs to improve phonetic awareness and reading comprehension.
- Administration to cover additional classes for teachers to collaborate with learning assistants or Inclusion Facilitator.
- Incorporation of the Classroom Support Teacher
- Incorporation of the Collaborative Response Model
- Use of School PD funds for teachers to observe other grade level teachers in the district or attend additional PD beyond TAPI funding.
- Grade level groupings for all mathematics periods
- Implementation of new programming such as UFLY and the new Alberta Education Program of Studies Curriculum
- Mentoring by experienced teachers for Medicine Hat College Students
- Ongoing Presentations from Indigenous Wellness Facilitator (Classroom and Assembly)





*Josh Cross on Cree Culture*



*Grade One Math Lesson*



*Grade Two/Three*

## RESPONDING TO OUR REQUIRED ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE MEASURE RESULTS

School Strategies by Measure	Indicators of Success
<b>Student Learning Engagement</b>	<p><b>82.5%</b> (1.9% lower than provincial ave. and slightly lower than last year's school results but overall a maintained measure.) Various clubs, literacy initiatives and intervention from LLI through the Learning Loss provincial grant.</p>
<b>Citizenship</b>	<p><b>84.6.%</b> (4.3% higher than provincial ave. Very High achievement and overall Excellent!) Citizenship will continue to be emphasized through our grade 5-6 Faith Leadership group and participation in various fundraising efforts and social justice education in respect to organizations such as the Medicine Hat Food Bank(Root Cellar), Mission Mexico, Mustard Seed, Water for Kenya Project and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Through educational activities regarding Orange Shirt Day (Truth and Reconciliation Day), Red Wednesday, and Metis Week, students will gain an appreciation for what it means to be a Canadian citizen that recognizes the rights and freedoms for all people.</p>
<b>Education Quality</b>	<p><b>95.1%</b> (7% higher than the provincial ave. Excellent Overall.) Through targeted intervention and excellent classroom teaching, the quality of education once again at St. Louis remained at a superior level of excellence!</p>

<p><b>Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments</b></p>	<p><b>89.6%</b> (4.1% higher than the Alberta average ). This indicator continues to be strong for our school with efforts to support students and their parents and guardians through a positive school climate, our Anti-Bullying policy, student leadership, and ongoing communication with the home, will continue.</p>
<p><b>Access to Supports and Services</b></p>	<p><b>95.4%</b> (14.8% higher than provincial Average!) Our exceptional result in this area is due to a strong emphasis on effective student-teacher relationships, assistance/intervention by our School Liaison Counsellor, CCT programming, school based CPC meetings, collaboration with community health organizations such as Bridges, the Diagnostic Clinic and local pediatricians. I believe our new Collaborative Response Model will continue to add to this as well as our Classroom Support Teacher role!</p>
<p><b>Parental Involvement</b></p>	<p><b>89.8.%</b> ( 10.7% higher than the provincial ave). This measure continues to excel for our school which is very exciting. New parents to our school are joining our School Council which is very active for a smaller school. Parents continue to support school functions such as dances, book fair, bingo, games and movie nights. At home initiatives such as home reading programs, online math and phonics programs for parental assistance have also been incorporated. Parents feel welcomed and supported at St. Louis!</p>

## RESPONDING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE MEASURES

<p><b>Lifelong Learning</b></p>	<p><b>75.0%</b> (12.3.% lower than last year's school result and 5% lower than provincial ave. Considered acceptable overall.) This was by far the lowest measurement from last year. Will respond to this through increased parental knowledge and understanding as well as to ensure all teachers submit the Assurance survey.</p>
<p><b>Program of Studies</b></p>	<p><b>91.0%</b> (4% above last year's results and 8% higher than prov. Ave. <u>Excellent</u> overall.)</p>
<p><b>Program of Studies-At-Risk Students</b></p>	<p><b>94.3%</b> (Maintained from last year at the school level and 13% higher than provincial ave. <u>Excellent</u> overall.)</p>
<p><b>Safe and Caring</b></p>	<p><b>93.4%</b> (Maintained from last year and 6% higher than provincial ave. <u>Excellent</u> overall.) From ELP to grade six our students are provided with a small community environment in which staff are knowledgeable of all students and endeavor to create a caring place for all.</p>
<p><b>Satisfaction with Program Access</b></p>	<p><b>91.5%</b> (6% higher than school results last year and 19% higher than prov. Ave. <u>Excellent</u> overall.)</p>
<p><b>School Improvement</b></p>	<p><b>90.2%</b> (basically identical from school results last year and 15% above the provincial ave. <u>Excellent</u> overall.)</p>
<p><b>Work Preparation</b></p>	<p><b>88.9%</b> (basically identical from school results last year and 7% above the provincial ave. <u>Excellent</u> overall.)</p>

## Provincial Achievement Tests - Results 2023 St. Louis School

Subject	Acceptable Standard	Excellence Standard
English Language Arts	91.7% (AB -90.4%)	0 % (AB -21.9%)
Mathematics	83.3% (AB- 77.4%)	8.3% (AB - 18.8%)

## COMMUNICATION

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



## CONTACT US

St. Louis School

403-527-7242

<https://www.stlouisschool.ca>

Ron Blackmer, Principal

[ron.blackmer@mhcbce.ab.ca](mailto:ron.blackmer@mhcbce.ab.ca)

