



Medicine Hat Catholic
Board of Education

Saint Louis School

School Plan

2024-2025



Prepared by: Mr. 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.

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education
Division Strategic Priorities
2024-2025



Principal's Message



St. Louis School is a historical “gem” within the MHCBE. We are, by population, the smallest school in our district but also a school with a great deal of heritage, 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 St. Louis of France. Our school specifically serves 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 94 children, not including our students from the Early Learning Program which account for 9 additional children.

Visitors to our school continually remark on the “welcoming family feeling” one receives from our staff. As the administrator of St. Louis I strive to especially help our parents and guardians understand that they are instrumental in their child’s education. I also believe in the tremendous advantages of Catholic education and that we are all lifelong learners in our faith. I am also continually struck by the charitable nature of our school community and their desire to share with others, often despite their own evident needs. I truly believe under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our school continues to model the example of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, our historical predecessors in faith based Catholic education.



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.

Strategic Priorities

Catholicity, Health and Wellness, Quality Teaching and Learning

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

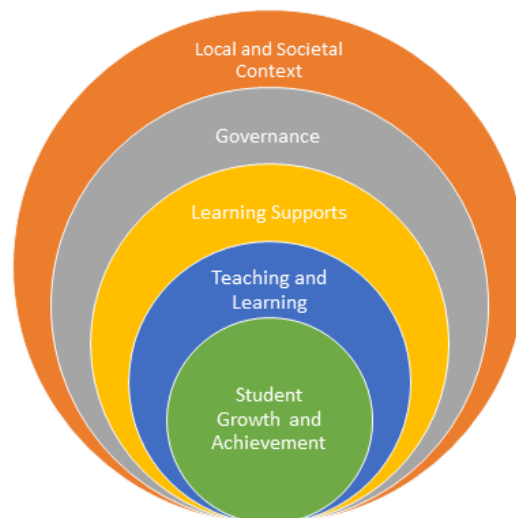
ASSURANCE

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
- Terrific Kids held monthly with the sponsorship of Gas City Kiwanis
- Student of the Week as part of each Google meet assembly
- Small grouping, straight grade level mathematics classes for all students
- Incorporation of the UFLY Phonetic approach to reading in K-3 classrooms
- 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, Chess Club and piano keyboarding class after school for 4-6 students
- Classroom Support Teacher interventions and initiatives for all grades



Meet the Teacher/Staff and MHC Rattler Night in September!

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

- Fourth year offering licensed Out of School Care Program. (AM and PM)
- 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



Consecration to Mary - Oct.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



SCHOOL GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICS



Catholicity

Outcome #1: Forming Missionary Disciples: To provide faith formation opportunities for staff, students and parents to grow in their knowledge and understanding of our Catholic Faith.

Outcome # 2: Being a Church of Encounter and Witness: Providing our students and staff to encounter Jesus through liturgies, retreats and curricular studies.

Outcome # 3: Strengthening Parish, School and Community relationships

Performance Measures:

- Saint of the Month 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 four five, six and possibly three students held each year at St. Patrick's or Holy Family
- 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
- Two day retreat from the Seeds of the Word Community
- Reconciliation held for students during advent and lent
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held during lent

- Catholicity through the fine arts (Drama, art, music).
- Teaching and praying the rosary during October and May
- Presentation of the Stations of the Cross at Holy Family Parish in lent
- Staff morning prayer every Monday morning.
- Involvement with pastors from Victory Lutheran and River Valley Church
- Faith Sharing at Staff Meetings



Saint of the Month Bulletin Board



Year Opening Mass



Stations of the Cross Performed at Holy Family Parish - Lent



Father Roque blessing our birthday crosses and Pizza with the Priests



Health and Wellness

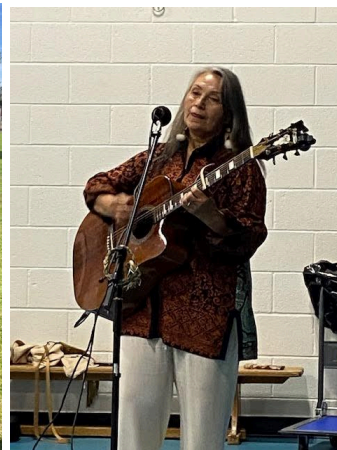
Outcome #1: To establish and promote a healthy staff and workplace culture. Increased communication, connectedness and wellness opportunities for staff as outlined in our Health and Wellness Plan

Outcome #2: To Ensure optimum health and wellness that includes spiritual, physical, social and emotional wellness for our students.

Outcome #3: To endeavor to support our parents and guardians in their ability to be effective in their child's lifelong learning

Performance Measures:

- Weekly presence of CCT at our school each Monday afternoon
- School Liaison Counsellor three times weekly at our school
- Facilitation of medical appointments for our students/parents
- Second annual St. Louis Faith and Wellness Fair
- Designated Wellness champion in the school
- Staff participation in Wellness activity at River Valley Church (Spiritual/Social/Physical)
- Spirit Dress Up Days for our students
- Family/student activities such as dances, bingo nights, movie nights
- "Underground" spirit days for staff



One Hundred Day St. Louis Blue Day Indigenous Performer - Phyllis Sinclair



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.

Performance Measures:

- Increased communication with parents of low level students through phone calls, emails and meetings.
- Continued implementation 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
- Upper and lower elementary teacher P.L.C.s
- Incorporation of the Classroom Support Teacher -second year
- Incorporation of the Collaborative Response Model - second year
- SCRUM meetings held twice monthly (principal, learning support teacher and liaison Counselor)
- Use of School PD funds for teachers to observe other grade level teachers in the district or attend additional PD beyond TAPI funding.
- An additional \$500.00 from school budget for teachers to order new curriculum resources
- Grade level groupings for all mathematics periods
- Mentoring by experienced teachers for Medicine Hat College Students
- Mentoring of experienced teachers for the Additions and Counseling students
- Teacher observations, particularly observations and evaluations for three teachers with temporary contracts
- Ongoing Presentations from Indigenous Wellness Facilitator (Classroom and Assembly)
- Morning and afternoon Early Learning Program with Learning Support Teacher intervention and assistance with ISPs, parent meetings

- All day programming opportunities for children in morning kindergarten and then proceeding to afternoon E.L.P. Adjustment of E.L.P. fees for parents/guardians requiring financial assistance
- Exploration of a Licensed Preschool Program to be implemented at St. Louis School for the 2025-2026 school year



Early Learning Program Students on a Community Walk



Science in Grade 5-6

RESPONDING TO OUR REQUIRED ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE MEASURE RESULTS

School Strategies by Measure	Indicators of Success
Student Learning Engagement	<p>86.1(2.4% higher than provincial ave. and 3.6% higher than last year’s school results but overall a maintained measure.)</p> <p>Various clubs, literacy initiatives and intervention from LLI through the Learning Loss provincial grant.</p>
Citizenship	<p>85.6.% (6.2% higher than provincial ave.</p> <p>Very High achievement and <u>overall Excellent!</u>) We achieved the same result last year and even up by 1% from the previous year. 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.</p> <p>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>

<p>Education Quality</p>	<p>96.3% (8.7% higher than the provincial ave. <u>Excellent Overall</u>.) 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>Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments</p>	<p>89.8% (5.8% 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>Access to Supports and Services</p>	<p>92.7% (12.8% 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>Parental Involvement</p>	<p>100.% (20.5% higher than the provincial ave). <u>Improvement shown in this area. Excellent overall.</u>This measure continues to excel for our school which is very</p>

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!



Student of the Week Presentations



Drumming in Music Class



Social Studies in Grade 1-2

RESPONDING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE MEASURES

In-Service Jurisdiction Needs	100% (19% higher than the provincial average). Excellent Overall!
Lifelong Learning	100% (25% higher than last year's school result and 20.1 than provincial ave. A very high result and a definite improvement from last year. <u>Excellent overall!</u>) 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.
Program of Studies	97.8% (6.8% above last year's results and 15% higher than prov. Ave. <u>Excellent overall.</u>)
Program of Studies-At-Risk Students	92.0% (Slightly down from last year at the school level but still 11% higher than provincial ave. <u>Excellent overall.</u>)
Safe and Caring	92.2% (Maintained from last year and 5.1% higher than provincial ave. <u>Excellent overall.</u>) 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.
Satisfaction with Program Access	90.9% (Maintained from last year's school results last year and 19% higher than prov. Ave. <u>Excellent overall.</u>)
School Improvement	90.2% (basically identical from school results last year and 15% above the provincial ave. <u>Excellent overall.</u>)
Work Preparation	100% (Up 11% from our school results last year and 17.2% above the provincial ave. <u>Excellent overall.</u>)

Provincial Achievement Tests - Results 2024 St. Louis School

For the 2024 P.A.T.s, only Science and Social Studies were measured.

Our results were as follows:

St. Louis School	Province	Evaluation Measure
Acceptable 64%	Acceptable 68.5%	Low
Excellent 20%	Excellent 19.8	High

Analysis: Increased efforts to improve the results of students achieving in the acceptable category will need to be explored. As our school rotates our social and science curriculums, we will not be writing these tests in 2025. An additional consideration would be students at the grade five level would have written these exams.



Hallway Handball



One to one Math Assistance

COMMUNICATION

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



CONTACT US

St. Louis School

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Our Tremendous Learning Assistants



