



Medicine Hat Catholic
Board of Education

St. Francis Xavier School

School Plan

2024 - 2025



"Strong Inside Strong Outside"

INTRODUCTION

St. Francis Xavier School has a school population of 164 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 or afternoon kindergarten programming.

We are home to Southern Alberta's only grades 4-6 Sports and Wellness 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, kickboxing, and sledge hockey while also focusing on traditional sports like baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball. The addition of wellness includes a diverse and interactive journey for students to gain awareness on the benefits of making good choices physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally in hopes of creating a happy and fulfilling lifestyle. We are excited about the lineup of guest speakers that include athletes and community members who have struggled in an aspect of their careers but learned to persevere and become successful despite adversity. Our academy runs for two afternoons every week, using facilities at the school, Medicine Hat College, Big Marble Go Centre and throughout the Medicine Hat community. The Sports and Wellness Academy program aligns with the school's dedication to physical literacy and is taught by teachers and community workers.

St. Francis Xavier School is once again 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 lunch for all students in need of one. This is a division wide initiative that is provided free of charge for our families. 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 our parents to continue to support our school and become actively involved in their 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.

In 2024/2025 we will once again continue our ongoing 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. Our goal this year in our ongoing faith journey as a school community is to recognize and cherish God's many gifts, big and small. We will look to recognize one another for showing the face of Christ here at school and hope to shine that light in the community. We will continue to work on our physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health with one another at St. Francis. Allowing students to feel strong in any task they wish to accomplish, we as a staff promise to uphold our agreement to keep everyone here at St. Francis safe and cared for.

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 | 24-25 | 23-24 | 22-23 | 21-22 | 20-21 | 19-20 | 18-19 | 17-18 | 16-17 | 15-16 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| K | 29 | 23 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 16 | 13 | 18 | 8 |
| 1 | 22 | 22 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 18 | 14 | 18 | 6 | 21 |
| 2 | 25 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 13 | 18 | 8 | 22 | 15 |
| 3 | 23 | 21 | 17 | 16 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 19 | 14 | 21 |
| 4 | 25 | 20 | 16 | 10 | 18 | 14 | 18 | 12 | 18 | 16 |
| 5 | 20 | 23 | 13 | 22 | 14 | 21 | 13 | 15 | 18 | 21 |
| 6 | 18 | 10 | 21 | 17 | 22 | 10 | 16 | 14 | 23 | 18 |
| TOTAL | 164 | 139 | 116 | 111 | 115 | 105 | 104 | 99 | 119 | 120 |

* Please note the increase in enrollment from 2023/2024 - 2024/2025 allowed us to offer straight grade classes (grades 1-6) and offer both a morning and afternoon kindergarten program

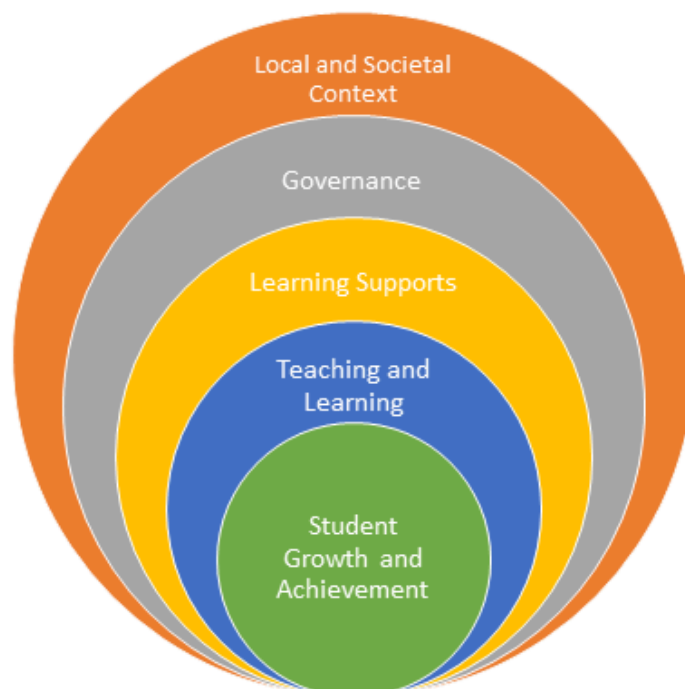
ASSURANCE

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:

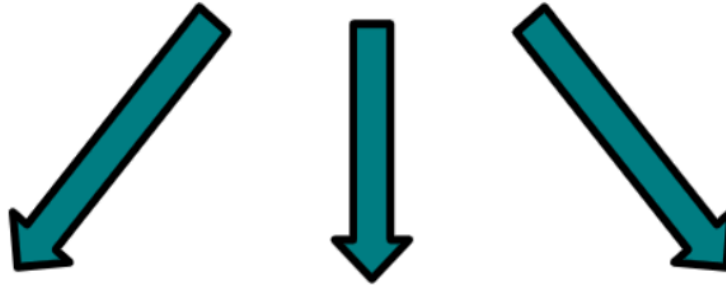


ENGAGEMENT

- Consistent Communication
 - School Website
 - Calendar
 - Regular Updates/Notices
 - Holy Trinity Academy Update page
 - Social Media posts
 - Monthly Newsletter
 - Social Media Updates
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - Parent Distribution (Email) List
 - Weekly Announcements and Principal Message (Next Week @ St.FX!)
 - Programming Updates
 - Procedure Communications
 - Emergencies
 - Classroom Communication
 - Google Classrooms
 - Student Agendas
 - Class Dojo
 - Email
- Parent Council
 - Meetings
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Fundraisers
 - Classroom activities/events
- School Events
 - Meet and greet with staff
 - Halloween parade and trick-or-treating
 - School Sponsored Mass @ St. Patrick's Church (November 23)
 - St. Francis Xavier Feast Day
 - Spirit Week(s)
 - Christmas Dinner and Mass
 - Christmas Concert
 - Valentines Dance
 - In-Person Parent/Teacher Interviews (Fall and Spring)
 - Book Fair

- Family Movie Night(s)
- Read-a-thon
- Spelling Bee
- Year End Fun Day(s)
- Reconciliation
- Adoration
- Celebrations
 - Masses
 - Liturgies
- Student Leadership Opportunities
 - Student Council
 - AMA Safety Patrol
 - Milk Delivery
 - Lunch Monitors
 - Prayer Leaders
 - Division led School Faith Leaders program
 - Recycling Program
- Team/Clubs
 - Hockey Club
 - Trading Card Club
 - Blue Jays Jays Care Affiliate School
<https://www.mlb.com/bluejays/community/jays-care/affiliate-school-program/en>
 - Sports and Wellness Academy

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Catholicity

- Catching God's Love awarded to students, staff and community members
- Catholic faith taught with intentional cross-curricular focus
- Faith leadership has prominent role in school culture



Health and Wellness

- Encouragement to set specific, measurable and achievable personal goals
- Practice kindness and understanding towards one another, especially during challenges
- Further development of the wellness portion of our grade 4-6 sports academy



Quality Teaching and Learning

- Successful transition and implementation of both a *new* report card and *new* curriculum
- Individualized learning experiences based on abilities
- High expectations are set to challenge our students



Outcomes for each of these priorities were developed to plan for the successful achievement of each priority. Specific performance measures and initiatives have been put into place for each of the outcomes

SCHOOL GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICS



Catholicity

Goal #1

'Catching God's Love' award given to staff, students and parents who catch others doing good works within the school community.

Goal #2

The Catholic Church and Its teachings are taught with an intentional cross-curricular focus in all classrooms.

Goal #3

School faith leaders take on a prominent role in liturgies, masses and school events while actively promoting all students in the school to grow in their own faith journeys.

Implementation Specifics:

- Catching God's Love awards for good works around the school given out at weekly assemblies. These are works that students achieve daily for good works noticed by others.
- Assemblies and liturgies will be designed with the division goal of consistently 'showing the face of Christ to all'.
- Teachers will receive professional development focusing on providing cross-curricular tools to incorporate the Catholic Church teachings in all subject areas.
- Priests, Sisters, and church staff will not only be invited into classrooms but become active members within our school community on a regular basis.
- Students will participate in religious retreats throughout the year (student led instruction as well as presenters from the community).
- Incorporate indigenous teachings and exercises into existing Catholic education (access to our divisions Indigenous Wellness Facilitator Josh Cross and our school FNMI leader).
- Church(es) and school will work closely with one another to coordinate masses, liturgies, and events.
- School faith leaders will have an active role in classrooms, clubs and liturgies throughout the school year.

Outcomes:

- 1) Staff, students and parents will be recognized regularly for their good works within our school and broader community. We are the hands and feet of Christ and will act as such.
- 2) Catholic teachings permeate in all we do both in classrooms and our hallways. Teaching about the Catholic faith will be present, not just during religious instruction timetabled periods.
- 3) School faith leaders will be active participants in our school, providing all students the opportunity to have a voice during liturgies, masses and school events.





Health and Wellness

Goal #1

Encourage students to set specific, measurable and achievable personal goals, both short-term and long-term.

Goal #2

Teach students to practice kindness and understanding toward themselves and others, especially during challenging times.

Goal #3

The further development of the wellness portion to our existing sports academy for all grades 4-6 students.

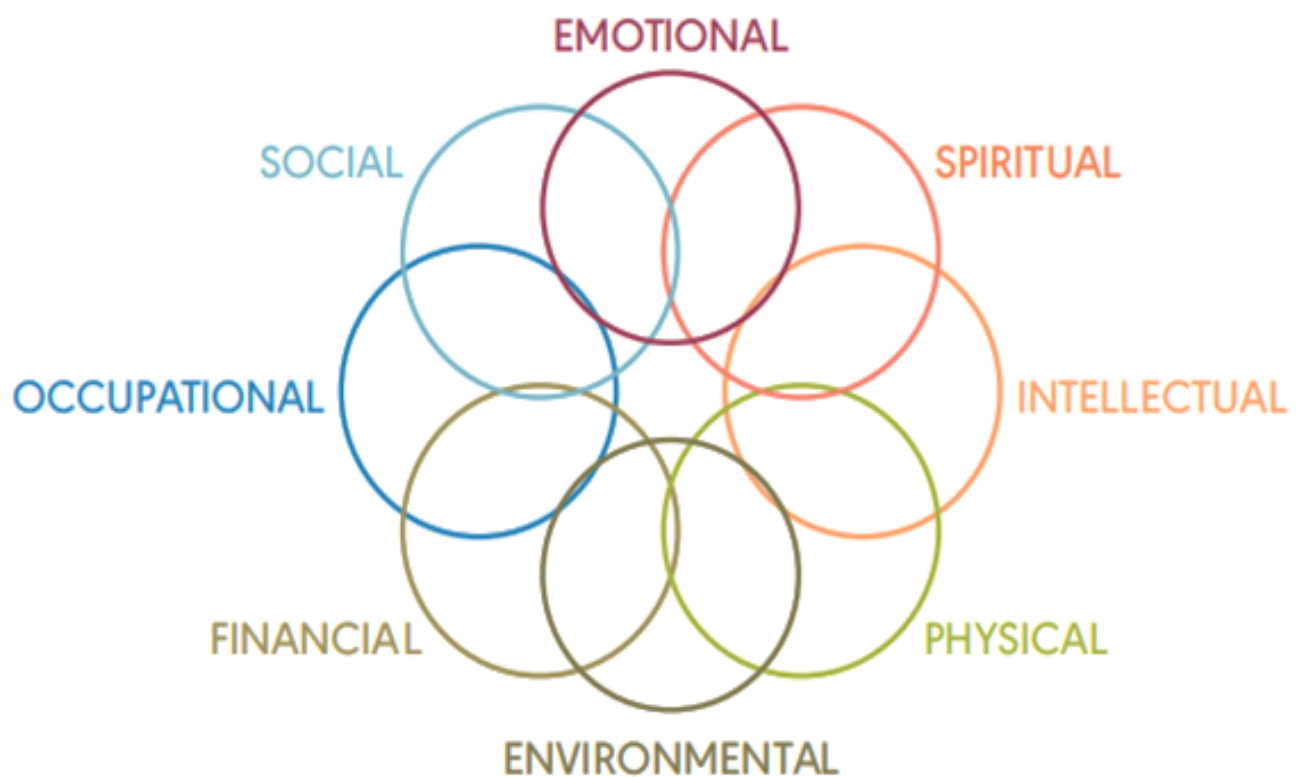
Implementation Specifics:

- Break down large tasks into smaller steps, which helps students feel a sense of progress. Teach them to celebrate small wins and focus on their progress and not perfection.
- Encourage students to add “yet” to statements about difficulties. For example, instead of saying, “I can’t do this,” they would say, “I can’t do this yet.”
- Guide students to replace self-critical thoughts with more supportive ones. For example, instead of saying “I’m terrible at math,” they can reframe it as “I may struggle with this, but I can learn and improve with practice.”
- Model positive language during school interactions. When students express negative thoughts about themselves, gently guide them to rephrase their statements in a more positive and empowering way.
- Weekly assemblies will focus on a weekly task that has students strive to meet a motivational goal (ex. Today is a good day to ... never give up, be a friend, show appreciation).
- Motivational guest speakers will be provided to the school community, working towards the common goal of positive affirmations and community building.
- Sports academy will continue to include a wellness portion that introduces students to speakers, goal setting techniques and importance of nutrition.
- Wellness projects that engage students and help others in the city of Medicine Hat.

Outcomes:

- 1) Students will have the opportunity to create tangible goals during assemblies and CCT (Communities Coming Together) time that foster a growth mindset. Goals will be found in student agendas monthly for all students grades 1-6.
- 2) Positive affirmations and self-encouragement will be present within classrooms, which in turn will promote kindness to one another at St. Francis Xavier School.
- 3) Sports and Wellness athletes will continue to follow our motto 'Strong Inside Strong Outside'. By focusing on inner motivational strategies, our students will grow to be stronger mental and physical athletes and learners.

Health and Wellness Components





Quality Teaching and Learning

Goal #1

Successful transition and implementation of both a *new* report card and *new* curriculum for staff, students and parents.

Goal #2

To create individualized learning experiences that meet the diverse needs, interests, and abilities of all students.

Goal #3

To set high expectations for all students, ensuring that they are challenged to meet their full potential.

Implementation Specifics:

- Staff will have access and be exposed to professional development opportunities to allow for further exposure to new curriculum material.
- The division and school will be providing professional development for new curriculum implementation as well as collaborative planning time.
- Parents will be given the opportunity to learn about, question and comment on the delivery of both curriculum implementation and new report card process.
- Students will be invited to explore materials, ask questions and share ideas in all aspects of their learning.
- Use differentiated instruction to address varying learning styles, needs, and abilities.
- Encourage student voice and choice, allowing students to take an active role in their learning.
- Establish clear learning goals and success criteria for students.
- Use ongoing formative assessments to monitor student progress and adjust instruction as needed.
- Provide timely and constructive feedback to help students improve and grow.
- Create classroom goals that allow students to not only reach their full potential but strive to challenge themselves.

Outcomes:

- 1) All stakeholders within the school community will not only be comfortable with the new curriculum and report card but will have an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the delivery, which will be communicated with parents/guardians
- 2) Clear learning expectations will be set by teachers for all students based on their strengths and learning styles, which will also be communicated with parents/guardians on a consistent basis.
- 3) Expectations for student performance will be set at a high level to allow for goal setting to shape their learning experience.

ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR

St. Francis Xavier Alberta Education Assurance Measure Results (Fall 2024)

| Education Measure | Current Results | Previous Year | Alberta Average |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Student Learning Engagement | 79.9 | 83.3 | 83.7 |
| 2. Citizenship | 82.1 | 85.3 | 79.4 |
| 3. Education Quality | 94.3 | 92.0 | 87.6 |
| 4. Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments | 86.0 | 87.6 | 84.0 |
| 5. Access to Supports & Services | 85.9 | 80.0 | 79.9 |
| 6. Parental Involvement | 90.0 | 73.6 | 79.5 |
| 7. Lifelong Learning | 71.4 | 67.9 | 79.9 |
| 8. Programs of Studies | 92.2 | 79.2 | 82.8 |
| 9. Program of Studies - At Risk Students | 84.4 | 83.7 | 80.6 |
| 9. Safe and Caring | 89.9 | 89.2 | 87.1 |
| 10. Program Access | 82.8 | 75.4 | 71.9 |
| 11. School Improvement | 83.1 | 57.2 | 75.8 |

RESPONDING TO ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR RESULTS

School Strategies by Measure

Indicators of Success

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Safe and Caring Schools</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff participate in faith permeation activities ● Staff keep up to date on safety certifications ● Students engage in Catholic virtue activities that promote a safer school atmosphere ● Students recognized for kindness shown towards one another ● Staff and students access supports within the school ● Access to community supports promoted to students in need ● Regular drills for staff and students on emergency protocols ● Clubs and teams formed to promote inclusivity |
| <p>Student Learning Opportunities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students in grades 4 -6 are introduced the Sports and Wellness Academy ● Resources for both home and school to support ongoing success (ex. Raz-Kids, Mathletics, JUMP Math, Mathology, Prodigy) ● Previous push for inquiry and play-based learning |
| <p>Student Learning Achievement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Data collection for grade 1-3 (pre and post assessment) in literacy and numeracy using government testing model ● Intervention strategies and model implemented based on results of grade 1-3 testing (dependant on need) ● Learning growth achieved for all students K-6 using various literacy and numeracy programs (school and home access available) |
| <p>Preparation for Lifelong Learning, Citizenship, World of Work</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students have the opportunity to volunteer as a student leader throughout the school including: milk program, recycling program, student council, faith leadership, wellness leadership ● Students have the opportunity to experience additional athletic pursuits through the sports academy |
| <p>Parental Involvement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased attendance in parent council meetings ● Volunteers for school initiatives ● Parent council supports all of our major field trips and community classroom experiences ● St. Francis will continue to have an active parent |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| | <p>council who leads many initiatives and fundraising events throughout the year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media platforms used to show successes of staff, students and the school |
| Continuous Improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers participate in professional development sessions and share their learning at the school • Sports and Wellness Academy expands enrollment and continues to develop new and exciting programming • Awareness of physical and spiritual wellness becomes common practice for all staff and students • Work with indigenous worker, school FNMI leader and leaders within the Medicine Hat area • Construction of Holy Trinity Academy will begin to account for the increase in enrollment at St. Francis Xavier, as well as division wide |

COMMUNICATION

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



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