

BOARD MANDATE, MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND GOALS

The mandate of the Board of Trustees of the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division is to provide the children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and tradition, the means of the division and the legislated requirements of the provincial and federal governments.

The Board, in keeping with the philosophy of Catholic education, is dedicated to serving the educational needs and aspirations of our children and parents. We serve the communities of Bow Island, Coaldale, Lethbridge, Picture Butte, Pincher Creek and Taber, and the surrounding areas.

Subject to the right and responsibility of the division to provide education programs to students through separate school in such a way that the rights guaranteed under the Constitution of Canada of separate school electors are preserved and maintained, the division affirms the rights of each student and employee as provided for in the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and will not discriminate against students and employees and provided for in the Alberta Human Rights Act or the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Board has adopted the following mission statement:

We are a Catholic Faith Community dedicated to providing each student entrusted to our care with an education rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, in partnership with home, parish and society, our schools foster the growth of responsible citizens who will live, celebrate and proclaim their faith.

Our Catholic Faith is the foundation of all that we do.

The actions and activities of the Board will be guided by the following core values and commitments to those values:

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

- We nurture the inherent spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, creative, physical, and emotional giftedness of everyone in our schools.
- We honour diversity.
- Our schools provide a welcoming safe and accepting sanctuary.

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

- We provide opportunities for all students to discover and become the persons God created them to be.
- We will implement best practices in education to support the learning needs of all students.
- We support and encourage the continued professional growth and reflective practice of all staff.
- We will promote continuous improvement in all schools and areas of the division to foster high quality Catholic education.

SACRAMENTALITY

- We see God and the wonder of God's work in everything we do and in all the people we encounter.
- As disciples of God, we model Christ to the world.
- We celebrate the presence of God in our schools through prayer, liturgy and symbols of our faith.
- We practice Christian fellowship.
- We promote and practice charity and social justice, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the importance of the sacraments and encourage the participation of our students and their families in parish life.

OUR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

- We share the responsibility of education with our students, staff, parents, parish, and the community at large.
- We encourage and appreciate the active involvement of all who share in the mission of educating students in our schools.
- We are committed to engaging our stakeholders, and will be receptive to and respectful of their input.

MINISTRY

- We employ people who share our commitment to our Catholic faith and the promotion of Gospel values so that our schools provide living witness to Jesus Christ.
- We honour the commitment and effort our staff members provide to Catholic education.
- We actively participate in the mission of the Church.
- We provide opportunities for faith development.
- We encourage and support the constitutional right to Catholic education.

STEWARDSHIP

- We respect and protect God's creation.
- We ensure that our resources and efforts best serve the needs of all our students.
- We are accountable to our supporters and will operate in a fiscally responsible manner.
- We ensure that decisions are both fact and policy driven.
- We support and provide processes which promote fair and objective decision-making through a Catholic perspective.
- We are open and transparent.

The Board has adopted the following vision statement:

- **Holy Spirit Catholic Schools...**Christ-centered learning communities where students are cherished and achieve their potential.

The Board believes that a quality Catholic education has the following intentions:

- To support each student in developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To develop in students an understanding and appreciation for Catholicism as a way of life.
- To develop in students a sense of Christian morality that will serve as a guiding principle for living.

- To provide the experience of living in a Catholic educational community where the teachings of Jesus Christ are modeled, experienced, and taught.
- To develop the individual in such areas as pride, self-worth, discipline, responsibility, confidence, expression, understanding, respect, and nurtured growth in faith and spirituality.
- To develop to the utmost, the intellectual, physical, social, spiritual and emotional capabilities of each child.
- To ensure that all students, according to individual need and regardless of location and circumstance, have access to high quality basic education, as defined by Alberta Education's Guide to Education, that is permeated with Catholic teaching and values. Such is the first priority of our resource allocations to students.
- To develop in students a love of life-long learning.
- To develop the skills and competencies required for students to be successful in an ever-changing world.
- To provide welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environments that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging.
- To provide opportunities for students to achieve equitable educational outcomes.
- To foster meaningful communication between the school, home and parish.
- To prepare students to enter directly into the work force or to proceed to an institution of higher learning.
- To develop strong and effective communication skills in students that demonstrates respect, empathy, and responsibility to others.
- To provide physical education and wellness activities with the aim of developing healthy bodies.
- To develop in students an understanding of the obligations and responsibilities of citizenship, our heritage and our Canadian democratic ideals.
- To develop in student's growth toward competence in citizenship, loyalty to the ideals of democracy and an appreciation for the problems of the community: local, territorial, provincial, national and global.
- To develop an appreciation for the role of the family in society and to promote positive family relationships.
- To continue our journey to truth and reconciliation by providing opportunities for all students to develop an understanding of, and respect for, the histories, cultures, languages, and diverse perspectives and contemporary contexts of First Nations, Métis and Inuit.
- To provide opportunities to develop and foster in students an appreciation for, and interest in, religious vocations.
- To support the foundation of Catholic education as enunciated by the following:
 - The Second Vatican Council, in the *Declaration on Christian Education, 1965.*
 - The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, in the document entitled, *The Catholic School, 1977.*
 - The *Apostolic Exhortation of His Holiness Pope John Paul to the Episcopate, the Clergy and the Faithful of the Entire Catholic Church on Catechesis in Our Time* (79/10/16).
 - The *Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools* by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB

Legal Reference: Sections 11, 16, 33, 51, 52, and 53 *Education Act*,
Alberta Human Rights Act
The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms