

Role of School Chaplain

Background

Unique to the Catholic school is the capacity of its teachers to model and witness the Catholic faith to students. Through the spirituality of communion and the permeation of faith and wisdom within pedagogy and curricular content, our students experience what it means to live like Jesus. Therefore formal, intentional, and visible supports should be in place within the Catholic school so that its teachers provide optimal faith based learning experiences for students. The school chaplain plays an essential role in supporting the principal and all staff in realizing these outcomes for our schools.

Procedures

1. As ongoing priorities for our schools, the school chaplain will work in cooperation with the principal and staff of each school to¹:
 - Create opportunities for the involvement of all students in classroom-based faith activities, being especially conscious of incorporating otherwise marginalized students;
 - Foster positive interpersonal relationships among students and staff to promote a sense of mutual trust and belonging;
 - Strive to identify and call forth the individual gifts of students and inviting them to put those gifts at the service of the common good;
 - Build partnerships with the home and parish in an effort to create an inclusive, holistic and hospitable Catholic school community;
 - Evangelize through a love for wisdom and truth, and an intergration of faith, culture, and life.
 - Furthering for students a Catholic perspective of learning and life.

2. In an effort to support the current Three-Year Education Plan of the District, the school chaplain will work in cooperation with the principal and staff of each school so that students will²:
 - Participate in social justice and community service that supports Catholic Social Services and Development and Peace;
 - “See – judge – act” on local and global issues of importance to develop their ethical, entrepreneurial response to social justice;
 - Participate in faith-based retreats to nurture a prayerful, peer – to – peer encounter with Jesus;

¹ This list of criteria is adapted from CCSSA (2014). *The Excellent Catholic Teacher*.

² This list of strategies are cited from Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (2017). *2017-2018 Student-focused Eduplan*.

- Be offered relevant religious education within a culture of faith permeation that promotes hope and engagement;
 - Participate in an environment that focuses on, animates, and enlivens the District theme – Living Like Jesus – Servant, Steward, Shepherd;
 - Learn about and apply different forms of prayer, including spontaneous prayer, to foster their personal prayer lives;
 - Develop further awareness of connections between our Catholic faith and the spiritual beliefs and practices of our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit brothers and sisters.
3. Through being selected to the role, the school chaplain will demonstrate capacity to³:
- Ensure that all that happens in the Catholic school reflects a Catholic worldview;
 - Allocate time and resources to reflect Catholic priorities;
 - Articulate the spirit and teaching of the Catholic Church in order to inform expectations and practices;
 - Speak with one voice on matters of Catholic education by engaging with other Catholic leaders;
 - Develop and maintain partnerships with other Catholic institutions, organizations, and outreach groups;
 - Share and promote Catholic education with non-Catholics;
 - Honour, recognize, and articulate the role of the Bishop’s pastoral leadership in matters of Catholic education;
 - Vision and create physical spaces that visibly express the external signs of our Catholic faith;
 - Demonstrate awareness and sensitivity to local, national, and global issues and trends related to the Catholic Church;
 - Encourage members of the Catholic school community in their role as stewards of the environment;
 - Further affiliation of staff to the goals of faith permeation for the school, within the direction and supervision of the school principal.
 - Engage staff in opportunities for personal faith support;
 - Support staff in the organization and implementation of prayer, liturgies, and eucharistic celebrations.
4. In cooperation with the Principal, and in support of the annual faith outcome, the school chaplain will engage with staff to create a priority for staff faith based development that will be supported annually throughout the school year. *The Excellent Catholic Teacher* and the *Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader* will serve as the basis for creating and furthering the implementation of this priority.

³ This list of criteria is adapted from CCSSA (2014). *The Excellent Catholic Teacher*.

References:

CCSSA (2014). Catholic Education: Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader. Retrieved from <https://www.ccssa.ca/documents> on February 12, 2018.

CCSSA (2014). The Excellent Catholic Teacher. Retrieved from <https://www.ccssa.ca/public/download/documents/47427> on February 12, 2018.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (2017). 2017-2018 Student-focused Eduplan. Retrieved from.....on February 12, 2018.

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