



OUR LADY OF THE RIVERS SCHOOL

2025-28

EDUCATION PLAN *Year 1*

OUR SCHOOL

Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School is a vibrant and diverse EEP to Grade 6 elementary school in Fort McMurray, Alberta, proudly operated by the Fort McMurray Catholic School Division. As a nurturing Catholic community, Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School emphasizes faith, learning and belonging, providing a strong foundation for its students, staff and families. The school is blessed with a community where cultures from around the world come together, creating a rich tapestry of traditions, languages and perspectives that enrich school life and strengthen the sense of community. Through daily prayers, liturgical celebrations and faith-based service initiatives, the school building is a hub of worship, celebration and learning cultivated in love.

Academically, Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School prepares its diverse community of students for lifelong success through engaging classroom instruction and hands-on learning. Strong core programming is complemented by enriching experiential opportunities. Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School encourages students to explore their gifts and passions in meaningful, real-world ways fostering personal growth.

At Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School, students learn collaboration, resilience and leadership in environments that balance care with expectations. Whether in group projects, creative assignments, or play-based learning, they develop spiritually, socially and academically, embodying the school's commitment to forming well-rounded students.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are honoured to introduce Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School's School Education Plan for 2025-2028, a thoughtfully crafted plan that will guide our school community's faith, academic, wellness and equity journey in the years ahead.

Faith First reminds us that our Catholic identity must permeate every aspect of school life through prayer, faith-based celebrations and shared values. Learning for Life reflects our unwavering commitment to meaningful and enduring academic growth. We recognize that wellness matters, for each child's ability to grow their social, emotional and physical well-being. To prepare our learners for tomorrow's challenges, we embrace future-ready students by cultivating creativity, critical thinking and resilience. Equity in Action ensures each student experiences dignity, belonging and access to opportunity.

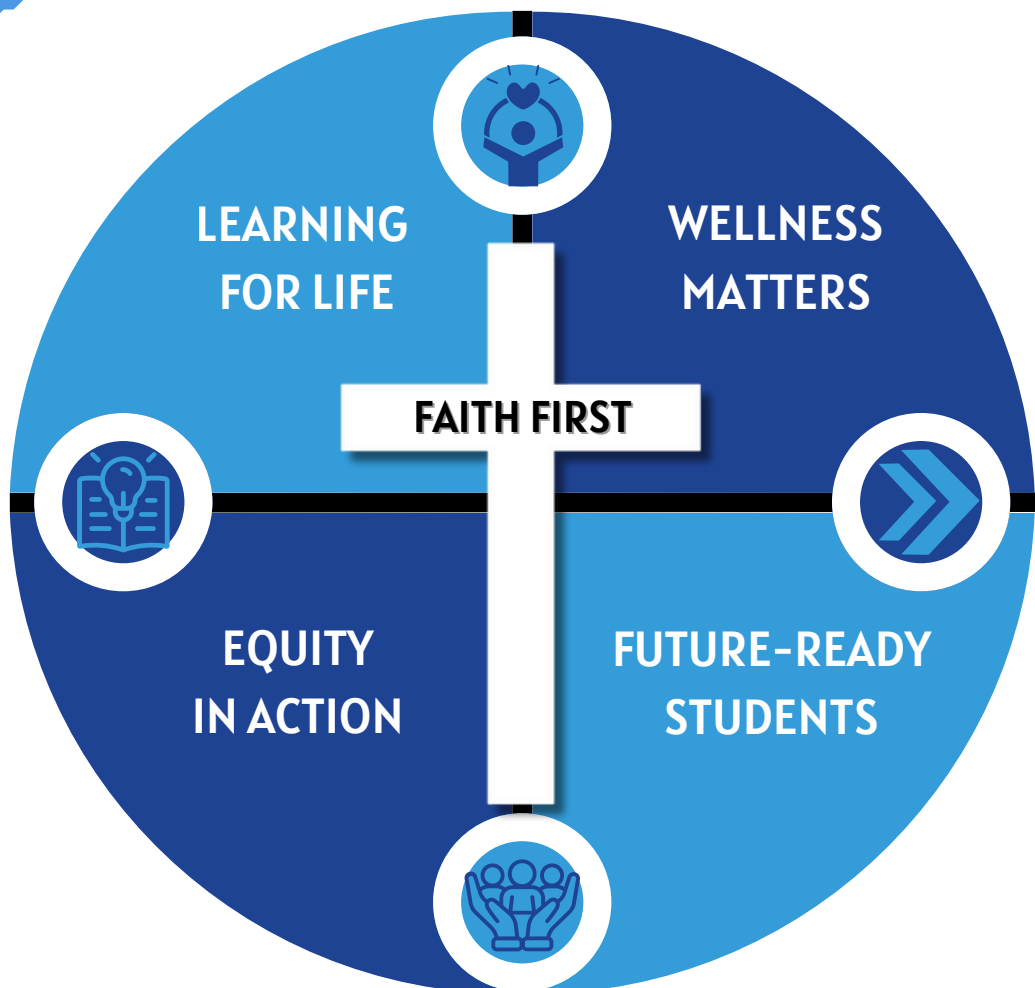
This comprehensive plan reflects our shared aspirations and serves as a guide, informing decisions and enriching daily life within our school. I look forward to walking this journey with you, as together we nurture hearts and minds in faith, learning and inclusive excellence.

Ms. Jennifer Fricker-MacDougall





2025-28 DIVISION STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



THEME 1: FAITH FIRST

OUTCOME A

Students and staff will experience a Catholic faith-inspired formation by opening their minds to learning, their hearts to love, and their hands to service, reflecting the path of the Saints.

- Explore the lives and teachings of the Saints as examples of individuals who embraced lifelong learning and curiosity, inspiring students and staff to approach knowledge with open minds.
- Celebrate students who reflect the qualities of highlighted Saints and our Division's Core Values at monthly assemblies.
- Together as a school community, prayerfully choose one patron saint whose life and virtues best represent who we are and what we value. This saint will become our spiritual role model, guiding our learning, actions, and faith journey as one united school family.

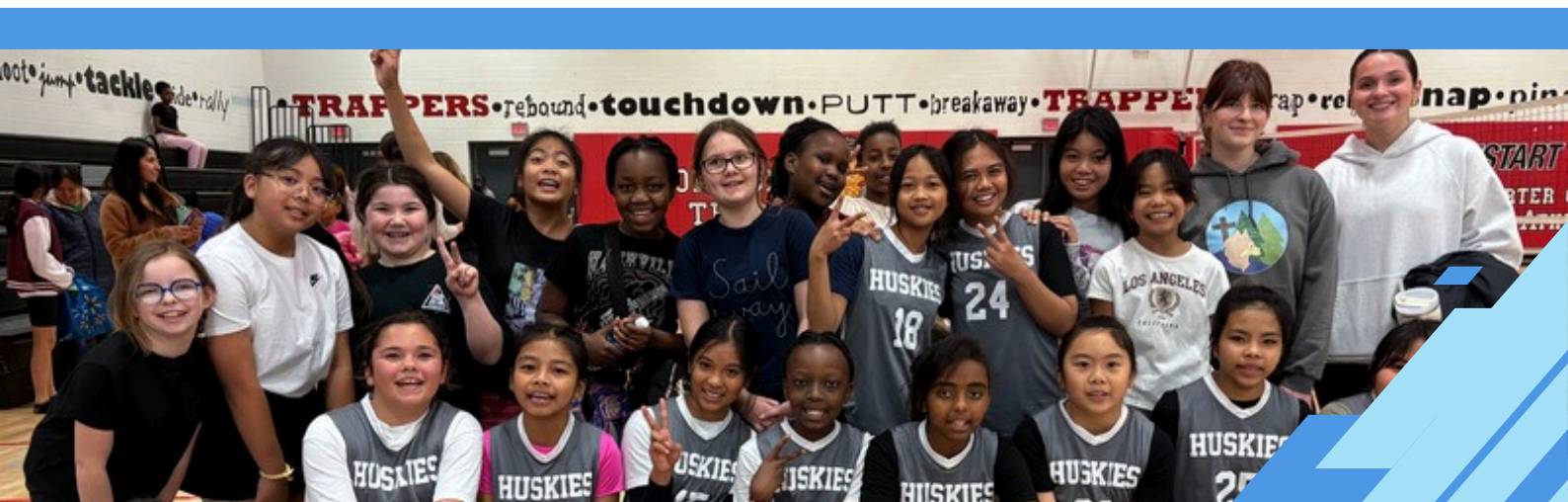
STRATEGIES

OUTCOME B

The school, parish and families collaborate to nurture a vibrant, faith-filled learning community.

- Establish faith leadership teams to champion faith initiatives and foster spiritual growth.
- Enhance regular and meaningful connections between the parish and school to provide pastoral support to students and staff such as: Masses, liturgies, daily prayers, etc. In addition, encouraging priest visits to learn parts of the Mass and important parts of the church, as well as extracurricular faith groups like altar server training.
- Continue to foster opportunities for staff and students to grow and celebrate their faith through service projects and interactive religion activities.
- To nurture a vibrant, faith-filled learning community, occasionally invite families and/or community neighbours to join us in Mass and liturgies by serving alongside students as lectors, prayer leaders, and gift bearers. By reading, praying, and serving together, families, parish, and the school strengthen their partnership in faith and witness the joy of celebrating as one Catholic community.

STRATEGIES



THEME 2: WELLNESS MATTERS

OUTCOME A

Foster a thriving learning environment that champions wellness and supports optimal conditions for teaching and learning, for all staff and students.

- Establish a staff wellness team to support the mental and physical wellness of staff.
- Seek efficiencies and integrate support to help manage workload demands and promote sustainable practices.
- Integrate the continuum of universal, small group and individualized counselling supports to proactively address the foundational well-being of all students.
- Integrate student supports such as SOS Mentorship, Girls Inc., MindUP, and partnerships with local community stakeholders to promote social-emotional growth, resilience, and a positive school culture.
- Ensure leadership team members are visible throughout the school, assisting with routines, modelling wellness-focused practices, and ensuring both staff and students feel supported, valued, and empowered.
- Frequently recognize and celebrate the contributions of our staff and students.

STRATEGIES

THEME 3: FUTURE-READY STUDENTS

OUTCOME A

Students will be ethical citizens, embodying integrity, respect, and social responsibility

- Create a school-based team to guide the implementation of restorative principles and practices to address conflict and behavioural issues, focusing on repairing harm, fostering a sense of safety, and building understanding within the school community.
- Engage students in meaningful service, connecting their actions to Catholic Social Teachings, discipleship, and ethical citizenship.
- Recognize students who demonstrate the four core values through school-wide recognition initiatives.
- Foster ethical citizenship by engaging students and staff in giving back to our community through *OLR Gives Back* initiatives. By participating in service projects and inviting community members to school celebrations, students and staff build meaningful partnerships, practice social responsibility, and strengthen connections with our neighbours.

STRATEGIES

THEME 4: LEARNING FOR LIFE

OUTCOME A

Students will cultivate personal excellence in literacy and numeracy, becoming empowered and engaged lifelong learners.

- Offer targeted and relevant school-based professional learning opportunities that enhance instructional practices in literacy and numeracy, specifically knowledge and application of intervention strategies to support students' literacy development.
- Continue to build teacher capacity to interpret and apply data and progress monitoring, ensuring it actively informs daily classroom decisions and supports student learning.
- Foster collaboration amongst classroom teachers and literacy-focused educational assistants to provide targeted support for students. Using a pull-out model, students needing intensive instruction will receive small-group intervention, while a push-in model will allow for in-class student support, ensuring learning is scaffolded and aligned with core instruction.
- Implement a structured literacy program that aligns instruction across all grades. Classroom teachers and Literacy EAs will use a consistent approach and common language, ensuring all students experience a coherent, evidence-based literacy framework that builds skills progressively year over year.
- The leadership team will meet with classroom teachers and literacy-focused educational assistants regularly to discuss student success in literacy and numeracy. These meetings will allow the team to monitor progress, identify interventions, and adjust support to meet each student's needs, ultimately fostering a coordinated, responsive approach to student success.

STRATEGIES



THEME 5: EQUITY IN ACTION

OUTCOME A

Students will participate in an inclusive school environment where their faiths, cultures, backgrounds, identities, and experiences are valued and enrich the school community.

- Ground the jurisdiction's commitment to inclusion and equity in the principles of Catholic Social Teachings, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person and our call to build a just and caring community where all belong.
- Foster a connected and inclusive community by encouraging positive self-awareness and celebrating the richness of diverse experiences. Activities such as Multicultural Days, learning about national holidays, and partnering with community organizations will help students recognize their own identities, appreciate others, and strengthen their sense of belonging in our school.
- Expand the degree to which all students can see themselves, their histories, and their contemporary lives reflected in educational experiences, learning resources, and the wider school community.

STRATEGIES



