



FORT McMURRAY
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

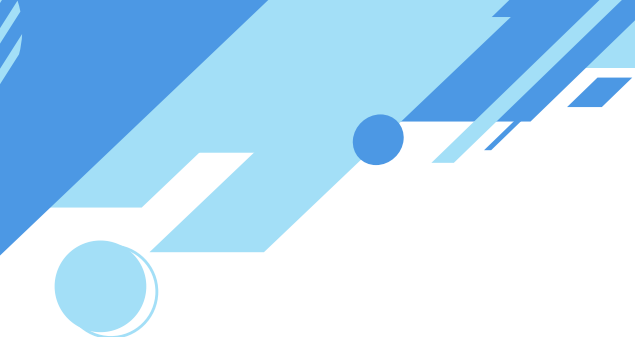


OUR LADY OF THE RIVERS SCHOOL

2025-28

EDUCATION PLAN

YEAR II ~ 2026-27



OUR SCHOOL

Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School is a vibrant and diverse Early Education Program (EEP) to Grade 6 school located in the downtown area of Fort McMurray, Alberta. Serving approximately 450 students, our school is a welcoming Catholic learning community where faith, learning, and belonging foster a Christ-centered environment.

The name Our Lady of the Rivers reflects both the importance of the rivers that sustain and connect our region and the loving protection of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who guides and watches over our school community. Just as the rivers bring life to the land, our school nurtures the spiritual, academic, social, and emotional growth of every child.

Our school is enriched by a diverse community where cultures from around the world come together, creating a strong sense of belonging and shared purpose. Through daily prayer, liturgical celebrations, faith formation, and service, Our Lady of the Rivers Catholic School is a place where students encounter Christ and grow in their faith.

Academically, students are supported through engaging instruction, strong foundational learning, and meaningful opportunities to discover their gifts and talents. Guided by our faith theme, "Live Like a Saint," we encourage students to follow the example of the saints by living with kindness, courage, compassion, and service to others. Together, we strive to form learners who grow in faith, knowledge, and character as they make a positive difference in the world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we enter the second year of our Three-Year Education Plan, I am honoured and blessed to serve as the Principal of Our Lady of the Rivers School. I look forward to working alongside our students, staff, families, and parish community as we continue our shared journey of faith, learning, and growth.

Faith First remains at the heart of our Catholic identity. Through prayer, celebrations, service, and Gospel values, we nurture a vibrant faith community. Our theme, "Live Like a Saint," encourages us to model the virtues of the saints in our daily lives.

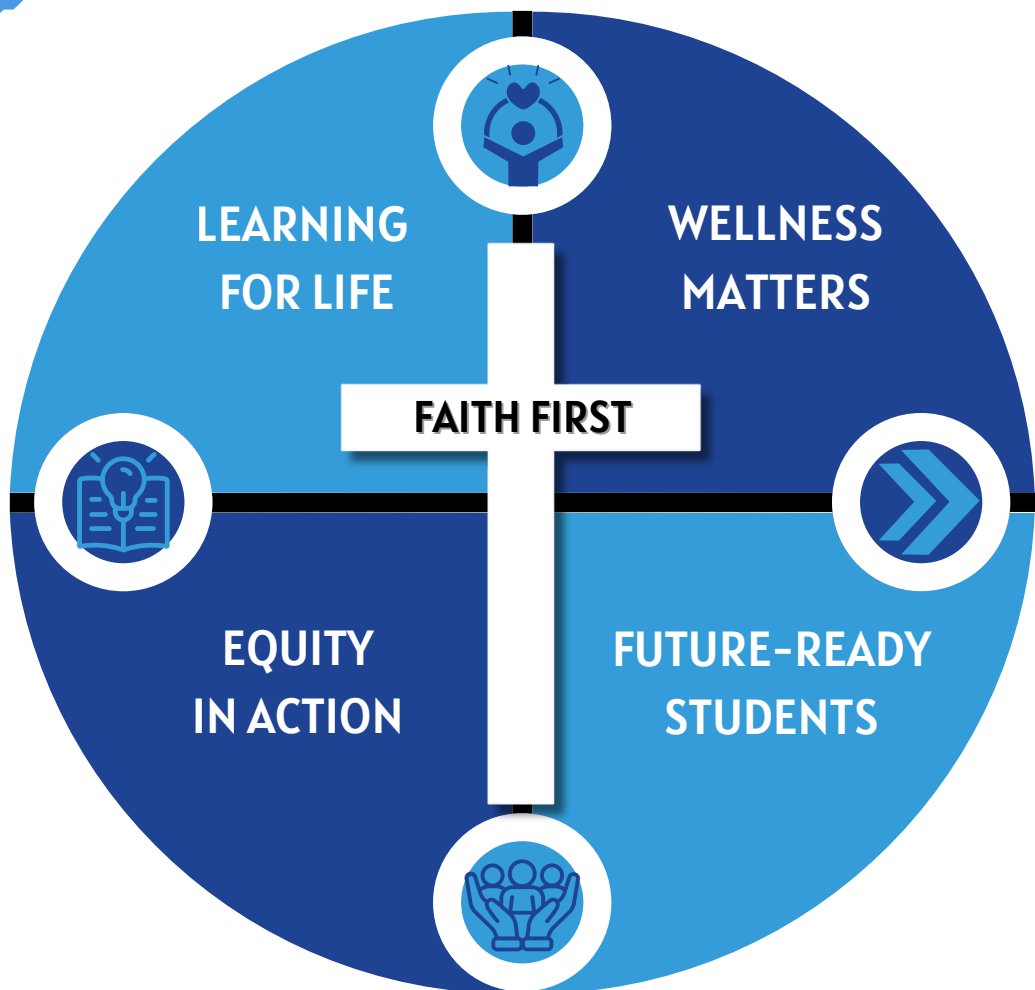
Our commitment to Learning for Life supports meaningful academic growth, while recognizing that Wellness Matters. Students thrive when their social, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being is nurtured. We prepare Future-Ready Students by fostering creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and perseverance. Through Equity in Action, we create a culture of belonging where every student is valued and has the opportunity to succeed.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Our Lady of the Rivers community and look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Mrs. Kacey De Pape



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 hearts open to love.
- 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.

- Maintain the 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.
- Build on the continuum of universal, small group, and individualized counselling supports to proactively address the foundational well-being of all students.
- Strengthen 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.
- Maintain leadership team visibility 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.
- Maintain 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.
- Deepen students' sense of connection and inclusion 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.
- Embed opportunities for all students to see themselves, their histories, and their contemporary lives reflected in educational experiences, learning resources, and the wider school community, strengthening student voice, belonging, and engagement.

STRATEGIES



