



FORT McMURRAY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



# ELSIE YANIK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2025-28

# EDUCATION PLAN

*Year 1*

# OUR SCHOOL

Elsie Yanik Catholic School proudly carries the name of a distinguished Métis Elder from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo who is celebrated for her unwavering faith, dedication to community, and remarkable kindness. The school opened its doors in 2018 with approximately 150 students and has grown steadily to now welcome close to 450 learners from EEP to Grade 6. At the center of the school is its welcoming gathering area, a space that reflects the warmth and inclusivity of the community. The school motto, “Kindness is Contagious,” is not only displayed for all to see but is actively lived out each day in classrooms, hallways, and across the wider school community. Students, staff, and families work together to foster a culture of respect, compassion, and lifelong learning. Through collaboration and shared experiences, each child is supported in their academic growth, personal development, and faith formation. Elsie Yanik Catholic School is more than a place of education; it is a community rooted in faith, inspired by kindness, and dedicated to helping each child grow in mind, heart, and spirit.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At Elsie Yanik Catholic School, we are blessed to walk in the footsteps of our namesake, a remarkable Métis Elder whose legacy of faith, kindness, and service inspires us. Our community of nearly 450 learners from EEP to Grade 6 is united by our motto, “Kindness is Contagious.” This year marks the beginning of our 2025–2028 Three-Year Education Plan, reflecting our commitment to faith, wellness, equity, and excellence in learning. We will nurture faith formation through meaningful liturgies, prayer, and living our core values daily. We will strengthen collaboration, celebrate staff achievements, and foster an inclusive school culture where every voice is valued. Students will grow as ethical citizens, critical thinkers, and lifelong learners, supported by data-informed instruction, tailored interventions, and rich literacy and numeracy experiences. Through Truth and Reconciliation actions, cultural celebrations, and partnerships with families and community members, we will honor the diverse gifts each person brings. Together, we will help every child grow in mind, heart, and spirit—rooted in faith, inspired by kindness, and committed to making a difference.

*Mrs. Julie North*





# 2025-28 DIVISION STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



# THEME 1: FAITH FIRST

## OUTCOME A

Staff, families and the parish collaborate to nurture vibrant, faith-filled learning communities that contribute to the faith formation of students.

- Develop a tree of values framework to ensure that every student, staff member, and family understands, embodies, and reflects the school's four core values in daily life through:
  - Visible messaging in the halls, classrooms, and on digital media.
  - Integration into the morning announcements and success assemblies highlighting members of the school community caught living the values.
  - Creation of a student faith leadership team to plan school-wide activities that exemplify the values in action.
- Students will actively participate in the planning, preparing, and leading prayer services, school liturgies and spiritual celebrations throughout the year.
- Each class will contribute to sharing the lives of the saints through prayer and teachings to the whole school, fostering a sense of spiritual community.

## STRATEGIES

# THEME 2: WELLNESS MATTERS

## OUTCOME A

Leaders, teachers, and support staff will foster a thriving professional environment built on trust, collaboration, and a strong sense of community, creating optimal conditions for student learning.

- Build staff community through informal gatherings, purposeful activities, and social events to strengthen relationships among staff.
- Establish initiatives such as "Educator of the Week" and regular applauses to celebrate staff contributions and successes.
- Implement a buddy classroom system to encourage mentorship, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices among educators, as well as build relationships amongst students.
- Build a Collaborative Response Team to provide regular opportunities for staff to reflect, share experiences, and discuss strategies that support both professional growth and well-being.

## STRATEGIES



# THEME 3: FUTURE-READY STUDENTS

## OUTCOME A

Students will develop as ethical citizens, consistently demonstrating integrity, respect, and social responsibility in school and the wider community.

- Review and implement a consistent and transparent discipline framework that promotes accountability while reinforcing ethical behaviour.
  - Establishing a Restorative Practice Team.
- STRATEGIES**
- Integrate restorative approaches into the discipline framework to address conflicts and challenges, encouraging reflection, empathy, and repair of harm.
  - Embed lessons and discussions on integrity, respect, and social responsibility within classroom activities, regulated classrooms, and school-wide initiatives.
  - Establish a student council to ensure student voice is represented and heard when planning school initiatives.



# THEME 4: LEARNING FOR LIFE

## OUTCOME A

Teachers will support students to cultivate personal excellence in literacy and numeracy, becoming empowered and engaged lifelong learners.

- Teachers will enhance the collection, analysis, and application of Acadience data to inform targeted instruction and support student learning growth.
- Teachers will encourage the consistent use of hands-on math tools and manipulatives to deepen understanding and engagement in mathematical concepts.
- Teachers will ensure classroom literacy and numeracy practices are aligned with division-wide tools, frameworks, and instructional priorities.
- The school literacy committee will utilize the Indigo Adopt-a-School grant to expand and strengthen school resources, emphasizing the science of reading, diverse perspectives, and inclusive materials.

## STRATEGIES

## OUTCOME B

Students and staff will gain a deeper understanding of the interconnected histories of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, fostering a lasting commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

- Develop a year-long calendar of events and learning experiences to ensure meaningful and well-coordinated Indigenous programming.
- Invite Elders into the school to share knowledge, stories, and cultural teachings with students and staff.
- Establish and maintain a community Indigenous garden and outdoor classroom to provide hands-on learning opportunities and strengthen connections to land, culture, and heritage.
- Incorporate regular classroom and staff reflections on Indigenous perspectives, histories, and the principles of Truth and Reconciliation to reinforce learning and awareness.

## STRATEGIES



# THEME 5: EQUITY IN ACTION

## OUTCOME A

**Students will achieve academic success through tailored supports and services that maximize learning for all.**

- Provide ongoing professional development for staff on both universal and targeted instructional strategies, including the use of technology to support differentiation and in planning individualized and group-based intervention.
- Implement individualized and group-based interventions that address diverse learning needs, ensuring all students have equitable access to curriculum.
- Use assessment data and student progress monitoring to guide targeted supports and instructional adjustments.
- Encourage collaboration between teachers, support staff, and families to coordinate interventions and resources tailored to each student's learning profile.

## STRATEGIES

## OUTCOME B

**Students will participate in an inclusive school environment where their faiths, cultures, backgrounds, identities, and experiences are respected, valued, and contribute to the richness of the school community.**

- Organize events, assemblies, and activities that highlight and honour the diverse cultures, traditions, and identities within the school community.
- Involve families and community members in sharing cultural knowledge, traditions, and experiences to enrich the school environment and promote inclusion.
- Develop a committee to review and select resources, using the Indigo Reading Grant, to diversify the school library and classroom resources.

## STRATEGIES





ELSIE YANIK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Where Kindness is Contagious