



**St. Matthew Catholic School**

**2020-2021**

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

## Principles of Practice

**We honour our children.**

**We provide a safe and secure environment.**

**We live and proudly proclaim our Catholic Christian faith.**

**We provide quality education in a Catholic environment.**

**We pray as an educational community.**

**We practice servant-leadership.**

**We focus on our mission through clarity of purpose.**

**We value our staff.**

## Vision:

St. Matthew Catholic School is a Christ-centered learning environment within the framework of Christian love and justice.

## Mission:

St. Matthew School's mission is to provide students with quality learning experiences in a Christ-centered environment. Working in partnership with parents and the church, we inspire students to reach their spiritual, academic, and athletic potential by fostering a desire to become lifelong learners and followers of Jesus Christ.

## School Profile:

St. Matthew Catholic School is a pre-kindergarten to grade 8 Catholic school with an enrollment of 515 students and a staff of 44. St. Matthew School has a unique working relationship with the parish, also known as St. Matthew Parish. The parish priest visits the school and is increasingly becoming actively involved in all of the school's liturgical matters. The Catholic religion is at the core of our school life, evidenced by daily prayer, school-wide masses, adoration, religion classes, faith retreats for all of our students, and faith permeation within all Alberta curricular subjects. The faith of our Catholic community is lived out in our service projects. The division faith theme "Trust in the Lord with all your Heart." is proving to be very important for staff and students as we navigate all the new changes and protocols due to the pandemic. St. Matthew Catholic School offers a complete program of academic studies as well as a variety of exploratory courses for our grade 6 to 8 students which aligns with the Career and Technology Foundations Curriculum. We also have an outstanding physical education and music/band program. There is a record of academic excellence over time and our performance on standardized testing exceeds provincial standards on all measures. There are also extensive extra-curricular programs, including opportunities to participate in the parish's faith life, intramurals, student council, a student-volunteer canteen program, and a dynamic sports program. St. Matthew Catholic School makes it a priority to meet the needs of all students entrusted to our care with our inclusive model of instruction. In all classes we have LIFT teachers providing support as well as targeted and timely support

in most of our classes for our more vulnerable learners. We also provide additional support in programming such as Levelled Literacy Instruction, Response to Intervention, and the use of strategically planned instruction in our classrooms. As well, we make use of our Faith Lead teacher to provide support in faith permeation to all teachers and students. Our counselling support addresses the other various needs of families and students by providing programming, classroom presentations and mental health initiatives where needed. Our school motto for the year, written by King Solomon and taken from the book of Proverbs 3:5-6 is, "Trust in the Lord with all your Heart."

## Assurance Framework Report Card

Assurance Framework	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Program of Studies	89.98%	94.26%	90.41%	82.42%	82.19%	81.99%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Education Quality	95.29%	94.09%	94.12%	90.31%	90.20%	90.12%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Citizenship	91.44%	91.47%	90.54%	83.27%	82.85%	83.17%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Life Long Learning	79.61%	78.42%	75.73%					Maintained	
Work Preparation	84.80%	88.10%	89.02%	84.10%	82.99%	82.72%	High	Maintained	Good
Satisfaction with Program Access	86.21%	85.77%	79.23%					Improved	
Program of Studies - At Risk Students	94.71%	95.99%	90.38%					Improved	
Safe and Caring	94.84%	96.34%	94.94%	89.40%	89.01%	89.17%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	88.68%	87.63%	82.60%	81.75%	81.31%	81.23%	Very High	Improved	Excellent
In-service jurisdiction Needs	95.70%	94.51%	88.89%					Maintained	
School Improvement	90.95%	93.23%	90.35%	81.55%	81.04%	80.91%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

**Faith Outcome FO.1: Nourished by grace and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we joyfully embrace, live, and teach the Gospel spirit.**

<b>Nourished by grace and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we joyfully embrace, live, and teach the Gospel spirit.</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>3 Year Average</b>
I learn about the Catholic Faith at my school.	99.13%	100.00%	98.65%	99.26%
Prayer helps me feel closer to God.	92.56%	99.42%	92.91%	94.96%
I believe that God created me.	92.06%	97.57%	94.87%	94.84%
I believe that the Catholic Faith teaches me a good way to live.	97.02%	99.71%	92.98%	96.57%
I learn about God in all my classes.	89.34%	94.13%	87.43%	90.30%
(Grade 4) My teachers show me what it is like to be friends with Jesus.	99.48%	97.77%	94.49%	97.25%
(Grade 7&10) My teachers show me what it is like to develop a relationship with Jesus.	94.40%	100.00%	87.18%	93.86%
We pray regularly at my school.	95.80%			95.80%
I learn about the 3 persons of God - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.	95.85%			95.85%
At my school, staff and students talk about God.	92.69%			92.69%
I believe that I should use my knowledge (what I learn) to serve others and help those in need.	98.83%			98.83%
My teacher explains how our faith connects with the topics I am learning in my classes.	95.61%			95.61%
I believe that God created the world and He wants us to explore His creation.	90.43%			90.43%

The final 6 survey questions are not longitudinal, these are revised each year to measure current themes and as a result there is no previous years' data.

<b>AERR Comments</b>
Our results in all areas indicate that as a school community we are experiencing increased satisfaction in faith development. We have demonstrated that St. Matthew School is an inclusive and welcoming school with increased satisfaction in our teaching of the Catholic faith and providing students with opportunities to deepen their relationship with God. Although our satisfaction remains high we still need continued focus on permeation within our classes. Results from 2019/2020 indicate that 93% of staff and students talk about God and we have 95% believe that teachers explain how our faith connects with what they are learning. We will continue to focus on staff improvement and development of intentionally permeated instruction.

**Comment on School Goals**

We as a school community have chosen to focus on Catholic characteristic of Hospitality. Due to the increased safety protocols in place to ensure our safe re-entry to schools this year, the parents, students, and staff have expressed many fears and concerns. By choosing Hospitality as a focus we are able to address these fears and concerns by ensuring everyone feels safe and welcome to our school and our community. We are able to also provide many faith opportunities for our school within the safety regulations of AHS which highlight our Catholic Hospitality.

**Division Goals**

Enrich our division Catholicity by focusing on the two chosen characteristics of Catholic identity. (2020-2021 - Hospitality and Justice)

Lessons are permeated in process or content to teach students how to develop their worldview by mastering provincial outcomes in a Catholic context.

**School Goals**

Our staff will create a deeper understanding of the Catholic characteristic of Hospitality.

**Outcome 1: Alberta's students are successful.**

Alberta's students are successful.	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
<b>PAT Exam Measures</b>									
PAT: Acceptable	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
PAT: Excellence	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
<b>Assurance Framework</b>									
Citizenship	91.44%	91.47%	90.54%	83.27%	82.85%	83.17%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

\*\* Due to the cancelling of PAT and Diploma Exams in the 2019-2020 school year, current exam results are unavailable.

<b>AERR Comments</b>
Our results do not represent our school wide focus on teacher instructional practices for the 2019/2020 school year. As a school we specifically focused on differentiated instruction within our classrooms as a way to improve our results, specifically in the area of PAT excellence. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 drastically altering our school delivery, and the elimination of our PATs, we were unable to see the results of our focused approach. We maintained excellence in the area of Citizenship and therefore will continue our rich practices in this area.

<b>Comment on School Goals</b>
Due to the nature of the final months of learning in the 2019/2020 school year, we will focus on staff knowing their learners and discovering where they are at in their learning. The staff will also understand and respond to the learners, to ensure instruction can address any learning gaps for our students. Our school will continue to focus on knowing our learners and delivering our curriculum to our students with improved instruction and specific assessment practices.

<b>Division Goals</b>
Create and maintain optimal student learning experiences
Utilize timely, targeted, and flexible formative and summative assessment to enhance student learning

<b>School Goals</b>
Teachers will know, understand, and respond to their learners to address our identified student learning gaps.

**Outcome 2: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful.**

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful.	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
<b>PAT Exam Measures (FNMI)</b>									
PAT: Acceptable (FNMI)	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
PAT: Excellence (FNMI)	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

\*\* Due to the cancelling of PAT and Diploma Exams in the 2019-2020 school year, current exam results are unavailable.

<b>AERR Comments</b>
<p>These results were taken from a small sample and these small samples create inconsistencies for trend data. Based on the historically low numbers for our school in these performance measures, we feel we get a better understanding of our students by looking at our overall results. In comparison to our results, our First Nations, Métis and Inuit students are scoring lower and therefore our focus is on individual students' needs. By developing a deeper understanding of culture, our staff and students will be able to better support our students and develop and build relationships. The focus on restorative practices for our staff and students is to support an improved community connection with our indigenous students.</p>

<b>Comment on School Goals</b>
<p>We would like to improve our students' achievement. Our staff will focus on knowing and understanding their learners to ensure the instruction will address the students learning needs. As the Teaching Quality Standard indicates, we intend to support student achievement by engaging in collaborative, whole school approaches to capacity building in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education.</p>

<b>Division Goals</b>
<p>Develop and provide authentic, professional learning opportunities connected to local Indigenous stakeholders to build foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit for the benefit of all students.</p>
<p>Initiate programs designed to support Indigenous ways of knowing that include cultural perspectives, student connection, Indigenous community connection and building capacity in schools.</p>

<b>School Goals</b>
<p>Staff will develop a deeper understanding of our rich Indigenous culture.</p>



**Outcome 3: Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders.**

Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders.	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Assurance Framework									
Program of Studies	89.98%	94.26%	90.41%	82.42%	82.19%	81.99%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

AERR Comments
We continue to have a high percentage of parents and students satisfied with the implementation of the program of studies at St. Matthew. We will continue to provide a broad range of programming to meet the needs and interests of our student population and ensure this is analyzed each year. We will continue to create opportunities for our students, especially within the exploratory (CTF) realm, and expose students to a broad range of classes.

Comment on School Goals
We are focusing on formative assessment as a means to improve opportunities for students to succeed and demonstrate their understanding of our essential learning outcomes. Although our results indicate we have maintained very high achievement in this area, our focus on this is designed to address any learning gaps experienced by students during our extended online learning period last year. Improved assessment, when used as a tool to direct future learning, often leads to increased understanding and performance of students.

Division Goals
Enhance instructional leadership practices through the implementation of the Four Pillars of Instructional Leadership

School Goals
Focus on the use of formative assessment within classroom practice to improve student learning.

**Outcome 4: Alberta's education system is well governed and managed.**

Alberta's education system is well governed and managed.	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
<b>Assurance Framework</b>									
Education Quality	95.29%	94.09%	94.12%	90.31%	90.20%	90.12%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
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**AERR Comments**

St. Matthew has again proved that we are a school that is safe and caring. Our results decreased slightly from 96% to 94% in this area but still have maintained a high satisfaction with this measure for our school. We feel that our personal connections with parents and students have supported this continuous growth. This measure has been especially highlighted this year as our parents have been at a distance due to the Covid-19 safety guidelines and limited access to the building. Communication will be very important to ensure parents feel welcome and know what is going on in the school.

Our results indicate that we have improved in parental involvement and have a strong tradition of keeping our stakeholders informed and involved and our results indicate satisfaction in all areas due to our improved parental contact. We continue to focus on informing our parent community and building relationships. Our annual and traditional social justice projects have created a high level of satisfaction of stakeholder involvement and continued support from our parents, students, and staff. Although our results decreased slightly in the area of work preparation, this continues to be an area of focus this year.

**Comment on School Goals**

We have chosen this as our focus of our first goal this year because our parents and guests have limited access to the school. We will seek to create opportunities for the parents and community to be a part of our school events and celebrations. We will create opportunities for staff and parents to provide feedback for different decisions regarding school decisions.

Our walkthroughs will be our vehicle to address both our staff and students' mental health. Returning after seven months to face-to-face learning, it is important that the staff and students feel supported. Our school year looks very different for staff and students navigating the changes due to the pandemic, therefore a focus for this school

year will be supporting the mental wellness of both our students and staff at the school. The staff has created individual goals related to hospitality and focus on student mental wellness for this school year.

**Division Goals**

Know, understand and respond to students' individual learning, through authentic, developmentally appropriate programming.

Create opportunities for relevant stakeholders to provide input and collaborate into how well the school and/or school division is governed and managed.

Develop an understanding of mental wellness and create the capacity to respond to identified needs.

**School Goals**

Create opportunities for stakeholders to provide input and collaborate in the decision making of our community.

We will focus on improving the mental health of our staff and students.