



St. Matthew Catholic School

2021-2022

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 540 students and a staff of 45. 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. 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 team including FSEC support and address 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 that will guide us in everything we do is "Be Strong Be Brave Be Fearless! We are never alone!"

Assurance Framework Report Card

Alberta Ed Measures	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)
Student Learning Engagement	85.4	n/a	n/a	85.6	n/a	n/a
Citizenship	87.8	91.4	90.4	83.2	83.3	83
3-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.4	80.3	79.6
5-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	86.2	85.3	84.8
PAT: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	84.1	n/a	n/a	73.7
PAT: Excellence	n/a	n/a	16.7	n/a	n/a	20.3
Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.6
Diploma: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.1
Education Quality	93.6	95.3	94.1	89.6	90.3	90.2
Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	93	n/a	n/a	87.8	n/a	n/a
Access to Supports and Services	89.1	n/a	n/a	82.6	n/a	n/a

Nourished by grace and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we joyfully embrace, live, and teach the Gospel spirit.

Nourished by grace and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we joyfully embrace, live, and teach the Gospel spirit.	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	3 Year Average
I learn about the Catholic Faith at my school.	98.06%	99.13%	100.00%	99.06%
Prayer helps me feel closer to God.	94.43%	92.56%	99.42%	95.47%
I believe that God created me.	93.61%	92.06%	97.57%	94.42%
I believe that the Catholic Faith teaches me a good way to live.	96.09%	97.02%	99.71%	97.61%
I learn about God in all my classes.	89.48%	89.34%	94.13%	90.98%
(Grade 4) My teachers show me what it is like to be friends with Jesus.	94.53%	99.48%	97.77%	97.26%
(Grade 7&10) My teachers show me what it is like to develop a relationship with Jesus.	88.57%	87.76%	100.00%	92.11%
We learn that everyone is important and belongs.	98.09%			98.09%
We learn when we need to apologize and forgive.	97.77%			97.77%
Our school encourages students to be fair and treat others as we would want to be treated. (Grade 4 students)	100.00%			100.00%
Our school encourages students to treat others with dignity. (Grade 7 & 10 students)	91.89%			91.89%

AERR Comments

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 2020/21 indicate that 98% of staff and students learn about the Catholic faith in our school and we have 96% believe that teachers explain how our faith teaches us a good way to live. We will continue to focus on staff improvement on modelling what it is like to develop a relationship with Jesus.

Comment on School Goals

We as a school community have chosen to focus on Catholic characteristic of Community. 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. We have recognized the need to reassure our school community with many of the changes within our school. By choosing Community 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 provide many faith opportunities for our school within the safety regulations of AHS which highlight our Catholic traditions and importance of Community.

Division Goals

Enrich our division Catholicity by focusing on the two chosen characteristics of Catholic identity. (2021-2022: Community and Tradition)

School Goals

Our staff will deepen our understanding by focussing on the Catholic tradition of Community.

Alberta's students are successful.

Alberta Ed Measures	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)
PAT: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	84.1	n/a	n/a	73.7
PAT: Excellence	n/a	n/a	16.7	n/a	n/a	20.3
Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.6
Diploma: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.1
Citizenship	87.8	91.4	90.4	83.2	83.3	83
3-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.4	80.3	79.6
Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	56.6	56.4
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	68	66.6	64.9
Transition Rate (6 yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	60.3	59.5

AERR Comments
Our focus for the upcoming school year will be to address our student learning gaps. Differentiated instruction, and assessment within our classrooms is a way to improve our individual student results, specifically in the area of PAT excellence. Due to the nature of being in our second year of teaching during a pandemic, we feel it is important to know and understand our learners so we will continue the work we started in the 20/21 school year. We maintained excellence in the area of Citizenship and therefore will continue our rich practices in this area.

Comment on School Goals
Due to the nature of the last two school years, 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. Using student learning profiles, differentiated instruction and specific assessment practices we will focus on our student learning and address any learning gaps with in the 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.

Division Goals
Create an inclusive environment designed to achieve students' fullest potential through knowing, understanding and responding to all learners

School Goals
Teachers to create an inclusive environment to know understand and respond to all learners in the school to address the identified learning gaps.

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful.

Alberta Ed Measures for Indigenous Students	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)
PAT: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.2
PAT: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Diploma: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
3-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7
Drop Out Rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	5.5	5.2
Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.4	24.6
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.5	39.1	37.4
Transition Rate (6 yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	35.7	35	34.1

AERR Comments

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.

Comment on School Goals

We would like to improve our students' achievement. Our staff will focus on knowing and understanding their learners to ensure 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. All staff will take the trauma informed care training to ensure we are supporting all learners.

Division Goals

In collaboration with our Indigenous communities, build upon foundational knowledge of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit teachings to benefit all students and build the capacity of staff.

School Goals

Staff will develop a deeper understanding of our rich Indigenous culture.

Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders.

Alberta Ed Supplemental Measures	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)
Program of Studies	89.5	90	90.3	81.9	82.4	82.1

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 high impact teaching strategies 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. The teachers will deepen their understanding and implementation of professional practices to focus on student learning.

Division Goals
Deepen the understanding and implementation of professional practice standards with a focus on optimum student learning.
Fostering a culture where diversity is celebrated, and cultural distinctiveness is honoured promoting intercultural understanding.

School Goals
Focus on the use of high impact strategies within classroom practice to improve student learning.

Alberta's education system is well governed and managed.

Alberta Ed Measures	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result (Alberta)	Prev Year Result (Alberta)	Prev 3 Year Average (Alberta)
Education Quality	93.6	95.3	94.1	89.6	90.3	90.2
Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	93	n/a	n/a	87.8	n/a	n/a
Work Preparation	83.9	84.8	87.2	85.7	84.1	83.2

AERR Comments
<p>St. Matthew has again proved that we are a school that is safe and caring. Our results indicate we have 93% 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.</p> <p>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. This communication is to address many worries and stresses from the parent community due to COVID protocol and will be targeted in the area of mental health of our students and staff.</p> <p>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.</p>

Comment on School Goals
<p>We have chosen this as our focus 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. At the beginning of this year, we had a large number of parents who indicated worries and anxiety for the start up. We understand that our timely parental communication through letters and phone calls was important to our school community.</p> <p>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 community and focus on student mental wellness for this school year.</p>

Division Goals
RDCRS provides enhanced education through communication, engagement and partnership.

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.