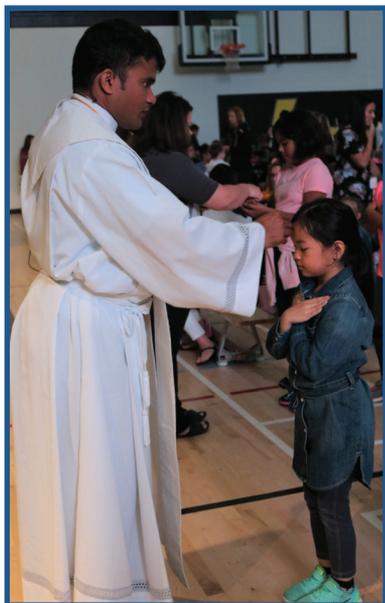


Celebrating Catholic Education Sunday



Share the good news of Catholic education!

- † Catholic Education Sunday is a day to celebrate the gift of publicly-funded Catholic education, and recognize the role it plays in the lives of students, their families, and communities as a whole.
- † Albertans are blessed with 100% publicly-funded Catholic schools. Catholic education is free and available to anyone who chooses it.
- † Families continue to choose Catholic education for their children; enrollment in Catholic schools, including STAR Catholic Schools, climbs year after year.
- † Catholic schools are safe, welcoming spaces with students of all faiths and backgrounds. Many non-Catholic families choose Catholic schools because they want their children to learn Catholic values.
- † The literal meaning of the word Catholic is “universal”; our students are taught to respect the differences and value of each and every individual.



- † Service, social justice, and charitable initiatives help students in Catholic schools create meaningful relationships with their communities.
- † Partnerships between Catholic school divisions and their public counterparts help maximize efficiency for the best interest of all students.
- † Catholic schools are blessed with many supporters. As the conversation around public funding for Catholic education continues, we ask you to share good news stories from your Catholic school, including the ways it has benefited your family.

Superintendent's Message



We are blessed with the opportunity to provide our children with quality publicly-funded Catholic education. Few environments promote growth of the whole child — spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially — in the same way as the communities lovingly created within Catholic schools.

The sense of belonging felt in our schools is bolstered by the steadfast belief that all God's children are created in His likeness, and that He loves them all equally. Everyone is treated with dignity, respect, and kindness; everyone is valued for what makes them unique and special.

The love and teachings of Christ are permeated into every aspect of our curriculum. Social justice initiatives, charitable projects, and relationships with parishes are as integral to our schools as academics or athletics. In these ways, students become deeply connected to not just their immediate school community, but also to the much larger community beyond the school walls.

The theme of the final year of STAR Catholic's three-year faith plan is "Live the Way". What better way to embody this theme than by leading by example and teaching our students the joys of selflessly living their lives as Christ lived his?

The effectiveness of teaching love and compassion, and the benefits of learning within safe and caring schools, is evident in the success Catholic schools demonstrate in areas such as high school completion rates, low drop out numbers, citizenship, Indigenous education, and academic success.

Our warm, welcoming schools are the birthplaces of many memorable moments and success stories. Some things are best shared with others; good news is one of them! I encourage you to spread the word about the amazing work done in Catholic schools, the incredible students who learn within them, and the wonderful gift of Catholic education.

God Bless!

Charlie Bouchard
Superintendent

STAR Catholic Schools Division Profile

Vision: Souls seeking Christ on a journey of faith, learning and love

Mission: Rejoicing in the way of Christ, we nurture a love of learning in faith-filled Catholic schools!

- **4,414 students** for the 2019-2020 school year, a 3.45% increase from last year
- **12 schools** and more than **420 staff** serving **6 communities:** Beaumont, Drayton Valley, Lacombe, Leduc, Ponoka, and Wetaskiwin.
- **3 Board Priorities:** Grow and Affirm Catholic Identity; Provide High Quality Learning and Working Environments; Support Students in Their Journey, Ensuring All are Successful Leaders.
- **7 Board Trustees:** Michelle Lamer (Board Chair), *Leduc*; Shaun Meaden, *Leduc*; Henry Effen (Vice Chair), *Wetaskiwin*; Liz Taylor-Sirois, *Beaumont*; Sandra Bannard, *Drayton Valley*; Donna Tugwood, *Lacombe*; and Dan Svitich, *Ponoka*.