

East Central Catholic Schools Four Year Faith Plan

“We teach; we share; we learn; we care. We grow in Christ, believing that together we can make a difference.”

East Central
Catholic Schools



ECCS “*Called by God*” Four Year Faith Plan

Introduction:

East Central Catholic Schools is very proud to announce our first ever four year faith plan. Our Faith Domain is an important part of the Alberta Education Assurance Framework and we strive for excellence in the permeation and blessings of our Catholic Faith. This faith plan is centred around our divisional touchstone which is, “***We teach; we share; we learn; we care. We grow in Christ, believing that together we can make a difference.***” Each year of the four year faith plan will have a different theme which focuses upon the key principles of our touchstone, “we teach; we share, we learn, we care.”

What is a Touchstone?

A school divisions touchstone is a standard or criterion by which we can be judged or recognized. Our touchstone is a reference to what we do as Catholic Educators and why we do it. Our Catholic faith is communal in nature and in our daily efforts we can change lives by sharing the joy found in the “Good News” and by living as an example of God’s unconditional love. With Christ as our role model, we strive to make a difference in the lives of those we serve in how we teach, how we share, how we develop our learning journeys in faith, as well as demonstrating Christ like service by truly caring for others. Our touchstone plays a vital role in representing what we stand for and how we will deliver positive and loving change that can ultimately make a difference in the lives we are entrusted with.

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ECCS Four Year Faith Plan:

The four year faith plan is developed in a way that focuses upon faith enrichment for our staff and students. We are all on a faith journey and the four year plan challenges us to examine, grow, and learn about our faith in the Holy Trinity and how we can live and serve as disciples of Christ.

YEAR 1 2021-2022 - “We Teach”

- **Theme:** “Called by God” - answering the vocational calling from God to teach.
- **Scripture:** Romans 8:28 - *“we know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.”*
- **Focus:** During Year 1, all ECCS staff will place focus on the relevance of being vocationally called to teach, love, serve, and worship, as God intends us to do. As a community of believers staff will explore and journey together, examining the importance of our Catholic vocation as well as what it means to “answer” the call within our faith based profession. Together, we will learn and experience the reality that being a Catholic educator is more than just being a teacher, it is being a disciple of Christ. Self reflection and personal growth in understanding “why” we have been called to this profession will further deepen the mission we have in bringing others to God’s love and salvation. Before we journey in faith with others, we need to know our individual calling and faith development.
- Divisional strategies such as Mission and Ministry Faith PD, Book studies, Professional Growth Plans in faith, Formation of a Relationship based Leadership team, as well as faith journals centered on Lectio Divina Prayer, and infusing faith in all curriculum areas are being implemented, implementation of Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ in Jr. High.

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YEAR 2 2022-2023 - "We Share"

Theme: Called to Witness

Scripture: Romans 12: 4-8 - *"For in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one in body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them; if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."*

Focus: During year 2, we will focus on how each of us are called to share the Good News of God with other people through our words, prayer, and actions. We will examine how we are invited to be a witness to God by sharing our own faith experiences. Together, we will explore how God calls upon us to use our gifts, talents, abilities, and skills to live the life He intended for us. We will also place attention upon the people that God has given to us by intentionally building a Catholic community in our schools, in our parishes, and within our families that we serve. By loving and serving others we love and serve God our saviour.

Divisional strategies such as Mission and Ministry Faith PD, Book studies, Professional Growth Plans in faith, Division wide social media publications of personal faith stories, Division wide implementation of Relationship based research, continuation of faith journals centered on Lectio Divina Prayer, and infusing faith in all curriculum areas are being implemented.



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YEAR 3 2023-2024 - “We Learn”

Theme: Called to Discipleship

Scripture: Psalm 119:108 - *“Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.”*

Focus: During year 3, we will learn about the rituals and decrees of our Catholic Faith. Together as faith communities we will teach and learn about the Mass as well as other forms of praise such as worship music, Liturgies of the Word, Lectio Divina, and other prayer forms. Staff and students will develop a fuller and more comprehensive understanding of our Church’s history, icons and rituals, as well as a deeper appreciation of the importance of the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. A disciple is a person who knows and follows Jesus Christ, our master and teacher. By learning about our faith as well as the parts of the Mass and through participating in the Mass we come to better learn about and know God.

Divisional strategies such as Mission and Ministry Faith PD, Book studies, Professional Growth Plans in faith, Continuation of delivery of a Relationship based research, faith journals centered on Lectio Divina Prayer, and infusing faith in all curriculum areas are being implemented, inclusion of Litany of Saints, priest visitations in schools, implementation of Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ in Jr. High.



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YEAR 4 2024-2025 - "We Care"

Theme: Called to Evangelize (To Care)

Scripture: Gospel of John 13: 12-15 - *"When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should also do just as I have done to you."*

Focus: During year 4, we will extend ourselves as a role model of Christ by encountering and serving those people who are in most need. By living and following the word of God, we are guided by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ. Christ's mission here on earth was to serve and heal those were marginalized, hurt, forgotten, unjustly treated, sick or suffering and through His love, service, and healing he reunited all to God's kingdom. As disciples we are called to evangelize through caring for others.

Divisional strategies such as Mission and Ministry Faith PD, Good works initiatives, involvement in Church ministries, community/global supports, involvement in Sacramental preparations, Professional Growth Plans in faith, Continuation of delivery of a Relationship based research, faith journals centered on Lectio Divina Prayer, and infusing faith in all curriculum areas are being implemented.

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In Closing:

ECCS is extraordinarily blessed with the vocation of teaching the most treasured gifts of this world, your children. As Catholic educators, we take this magnificent responsibility very seriously. We are called to infuse, inspire, and bring to life the joy and wonder of God to all we meet. In partnership with the Church and home we bring our children closer to the unconditional love and salvation of God. In preparing our children in our faith for this world we are also preparing them for eternal life with God in the next. Through our teaching, role modeling, and authentic permeation of our Catholicity we recognize and celebrate God's uniquely created and diverse plans for us. It is true that, "we teach; we share; we learn; we care. We grow in Christ, believing that together we can make a difference." Our four year faith plan calls upon the talents and gifts of all stakeholders and together in love and service we can accomplish great things that bring to life the saving redemption and love of God.

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