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Strategic Plan

Waterloo Catholic District Schools

Living In Faith

Our Vision

Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community-success for each, a place for all.

Our Mission

As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world.

Our Beliefs

All students nurtured in a community grounded in our Gospel values, and experiencing authentic learning environments of collaboration, inquiry and engagement, will become global citizens who transform God's world.

We maximize the God-given potential of each child when we welcome all students, believe in all students and instill hope in all students, basing our decisions on stated priorities.

In fostering students who meet the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations we also produce successful and independent global 21st century learners who give witness to their faith.



The tapestry of Waterloo Catholic is one that is rich in its diversity and cherished for its legacy. It is not a historical artefact but a treasure that is dynamic and ever-evolving. Each year new depth is added, new threads that add to the complexity and strength of the fabric. With the Strategic Plan contained herein, the tapestry hopes to be enriched, and become stronger and more beautiful yet. The threads are an extension of the previous work and are intended to build from it. The plan begins with an acknowledgment that while our Catholic schools have an unchanging core, the stakeholders we serve and their needs continue to evolve.

Recently we have received the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario letter *Renewing the Promise*. It was a wonderful opportunity to consider our past, present and future not only in Catholic education, but more specifically as a board. We have reflected deeply on the letter and it has strongly informed this Strategic Plan and the goals and work contained therein.

As with our previous plan, a fidelity to our stated beliefs, mission and vision, which remain unchanged, will ensure that we experience a successful journey. The Waterloo Catholic District School Board Multi-Year Strategic Plan sets out to prioritize our work in the areas of:

Nurturing Our Catholic Community

Student Engagement, Innovation and Achievement

Building Capacity to Lead, Learn and Live Authentically.

Waterloo Catholic prides itself on being Heart of the Community, providing Success for Each and A Place for All. With this core to our Vision, we find that the evolving Strategic Directions directly respond to each aspect of this aspirational statement. Further, through our unchanging mission, we aspire to transform our school communities into learning spaces where Faith and gospel values are witnessed,

students are empowered, and leadership is distributed. There is no strategic direction or goal that is the sole responsibility of any one person or department. There is a collective responsibility embedded within each. A culture of high expectations informs each goal and is a hallmark which is exemplified in each articulated indicator we will track. The goals and actions identified within the plan speak to the specifics of how we aspire to bring the system forward, consistent with our Catholic social teachings and with our gospel values as our foundation.

We continue to see a place and a role for our staff and students, not only in the local and provincial community, but indeed in our global community. We have aspired to build a plan that places innovation at its core and which sets a foundation for building greater success for each of our students. We continue to acknowledge that creativity, boldness, relationship and inclusion will be hallmarks of the work in all our schools.

As Catholics we are a people of hope and we believe in connecting each child to a future with promise. We believe this is possible when we are called to be members of Christ's community, when we are nourished by our Faith and the teachings we find in the gospel of Christ, and when we go forth, enriched by the love of God and His great promise to us.

The road ahead holds awesome possibilities. The tapestry will continue to evolve in new and exciting ways. The threads will have to interweave – not only with the old but with the many and varied threads joining as one. The picture formed will exceed the previous, but at its core will be the inspiration of Christ and His gospel. Like any great masterpiece, time and perspective will unlock all its potential, but the true gift will come from the inspiration and the blending of all the threads.

Loretta Notten
Director of Education

Nurturing Our Catholic Community

- Bear witness to our Faith through joyful discipleship and our relationships with and in Christ
- Promote a culture of belonging and respect, that supports success for all

Living In Faith

Building Capacity to Lead, Learn & Live Authentically

- Investment in global competency development and leading technologies
- Nurture the well being of all students and staff

Student Engagement, Achievement & Innovation

- Nurture a Culture of Innovation
- Foster maximum opportunity for success for all

Nurturing Our Catholic Community

Bear witness to our Faith through joyful discipleship and our relationships with and in Christ:

- Provide opportunities to live out and inform our faith through implementation of our Pastoral Plan, which will be rooted in a response to the pastoral letter, Renewing the Promise
- Promote stewardship of the earth and its resources
- Increase parent and community engagement in all our Catholic school faith-related activities

Promote a culture of belonging and respect, that supports success for all:

- Successful Implementation of WCDSB equity action plan to facilitate organizational change
- Equitable access to learning opportunities

Student Engagement, Achievement & Innovation

Nurture a Culture of Innovation:

- Ensure classroom pedagogy and pathway opportunities are relevant and provide transferable skills for student success
- Continue to seek and support reciprocal partnerships with Community/ educational partners and leverage the mutual learning

Foster maximum opportunity for success for all:

- Improve Numeracy Achievement
- Improve Graduation Rate
- Improve Secondary Literacy Achievement
- Increased Opportunity for Experiential Learning

Building Capacity to Lead, Learn & Live Authentically

Investment in global competency development and leading technologies:

- Increased awareness of and responsible implementation of Digital Citizenship
- Increase in precise student programming and use of New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPDL)
- Ensure technology is current and relevant to optimal teaching and learning practices

Nurture the well being of all students and staff:

- Decrease in staff absenteeism/sick leave usage, and health and safety incidents
- Increase in student attendance and engagement
- Provide opportunities to nurture faith and spirituality of staff and students



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**Waterloo Catholic
District School Board**