

October 6, 2020

Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustees Release Preliminary September Enrolment Summary

Sherwood Park, AB—At the September 16, 2020 public meeting, the Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) Board of Trustees received a draft report with the Division's September 2020 enrolment summary. Final numbers are provided to Alberta Education by the end of September each year. This was a unique school start-up for EICS with the pandemic and the expansion of St. Isidore Catholic Learning Centre to provide online learning options for Grades 1-12.

"Our numbers are very representative of what is occurring in all Alberta school divisions," explained EICS Board Chair Ted Paszek. "Even with being in the middle of a global pandemic our numbers have remained quite consistent to last year and we are confident that with our staff and school leaderships that our EICS students will have an amazing educational experience this year."

The school re-entry plan for EICS this September was to ensure that our schools and classrooms were a safe and welcoming place for our students and staff. However, we understood the reality that not all parents were ready to send their children back to in-class learning and the need for St. Isidore Learning Centre to expand to meet this demand became an emerging priority in late August/early September. From a staffing of 6 teachers that focused only on Grades 7-12, St. Isidore Learning Centre has grown to over 20 staff and is providing online support to Grades 1-12 for over 525 EICS students, which is approximately 8.08% of the total population of 6,348 students.

"We are thrilled with the rapid expansion that St. Isidore Learning Centre was able to achieve in such a short period of time," expressed EICS Chair Paszek. "Clearly, this year's school re-entry was incredibly complex with many moving parts, but EICS staff rose to the challenge to provide a safe, welcoming and adaptive learning environment for all of our students."

The current year and last year school enrolment numbers are located in the chart on the Background page attached.

Backgrounder

Name of School	2020-2021 Enrolment	2019-2020 Enrolment
Archbishop Jordan Catholic School	1,363	1,399
École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School	188	211
Holy Redeemer Catholic School	162	162
Holy Spirit Catholic School	286	333
St. Nicholas Catholic School	243	249
Madonna Catholic School	157	186
Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School	167	159
Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School	547	530
École Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School	418	365
St. André Bessette Catholic School	519	488
St. John Paul II Catholic School	412	403
St. John 23 Catholic School	205	224

St. Luke Catholic School	145	154
St. Martin Catholic School	210	222
St. Mary's Catholic School	195	189
St. Patrick Catholic School	322	358
St. Theresa Catholic School	634	720

To arrange an interview on the this release, please do not hesitate to reach out to Susan Johnson, EICS Communications at susan.johnson@eics.ab.ca or via phone at 780 449-7487.