

Resources and Services Available

Faith Formation

- Providing resources, direction, and funding for theological, moral, and religious education for staff and students.
- Developing and leading retreats for students, staff, trustees, parents.
- Overseeing faith formation programs taken at Newman Theological College and St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta including the cohort of teachers working towards completing a Graduate Diploma in Religious Education.
- Offering in-house courses to new and existing staff in faith related areas.
- Nurturing the chaplaincy program for secondary students.
- Supporting celebrations, prayer services and days of reflection for both staff and students on both an individual school basis and division-wide.

Support for Religious Education Programs

- Supporting existing programs from the National Office of Religious Education and those developed locally with the approval of the Alberta Catholic Bishops.
- Working with teachers to implement new and revised official programs and develop alternative modes of delivery for programs.

Theological Consultation

- Vetting documents from all media sources for theological content and suitability for use in Catholic schools.
- Providing Catholic perspective at various venues within the division.
- Writing and speaking on faith in Catholic education matters, locally and provincially.
- Offering direction and feedback on a variety of topics: liturgies, prayer, dealing with controversial issues in the classroom, et cetera.

Liaison with Community

- Establishing and maintaining relations with parent groups, parishes, the archdiocese and Eparchy, church organizations, Catholic agencies, community services, neighboring school districts, colleges and universities, provincial and national organizations.

Sharing Resources

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- Providing prayers, liturgies, lessons and a variety of other resources to those requesting them.
- Attending conferences to meet and hire inspirational speakers to address students and staff.
- Liturgies of the word and mass at key points in the school year including school opening, Thanksgiving, school closing
- liturgical calendar including Advent, Lent, Easter
- Religious symbols, posters, icons, and art work
- School names that tie into our faith, tradition and understanding.
- Prayer at key times and events - over the intercom or in the classroom.
- One-day or overnight retreats that supplement what is taught in religion classes.
- Faith-related professional development days, which may be district wide or school-based.
- Chaplains and chapels in our high schools - we have teaching, lay chaplains and we have a chapel in two of our high schools.
- A well-funded faith formation program for all staff to take courses focused mostly Catholic theology, scripture, and morality