



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

Principals' Report

Monday, January 13, 2025

Be Joyful----Be Loving----Be Humble----Be Forgiving

KUDOS

To Our Parent Community: Thank you to all parents for volunteering in December with our Grade 9 Mock Interviews, Christmas decorating, Christmas Dance, Christmas Treat Cart, and supporting our staff service with donations for Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter, Red Deer Food Bank, and the Seniors' Lodge.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS

School Focus for the 2024-25 school year:

- FAITH: focusing on the word 'serve' in our Faith Theme. Our focus will be to continue to nurture and foster faith in our staff and students throughout the year.
- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: Total Participation Techniques & Newly established Student Engagement Team (SET) Collaborative Groups:
 - Indigenous Education Support
 - Numeracy
 - Wellness
 - CTF
 - Literacy

November/December Learning Focus:

- FAITH: Opening our Hearts Part 2: Serving & Faith in Action #InspiredToServe
- ACHIEVEMENT: AEA - School Improvement & Plan Provincial Achievement Tests-celebrations/effective/next steps
- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: Student Engagement Teams Collaborative Groups - focus groups exploring goals to support our students and our instruction.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2024-2025 Student Population

- 655 students Grade 6 to Grade 9

| Grade 6 (5 classes) | Grade 7 (5 classes) | Grade 8 (6 classes) | Grade 9 (6 classes) |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 143 | 151 | 179 | 182 |

Staffing

Please join us in welcoming **back our** staff members this month:

- Mrs. Kaitlyn Van Grinsven - grade 8 team
- Mrs. Avery Poulin - grade 7 team

Faith

School Wide Epiphany Mass- led by grade 7 students at St. Mary's Church on January 8th

Faith Fact Fridays - the liturgical season of Advent, review of Who is St. Francis?

Extracurriculars

- Basketball (teams & sports development)
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Student Council
- Way of the Wolf

Upcoming

- Wednesday, Jan. 22: Bell Let's Talk Day - Youth Mental Health
- Friday, Jan. 24th: Grade 9 Discovery Day supporting transition to High School
- 2025-2026 School Intention Forms for grades 6,7, and 8 students & Registrations open March 3rd
- Tues, March 4th Shrove Tuesday & Wed, March 5th: Ash Wednesday Liturgy led by 7-1 & 7-2

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

ADVISORY QUESTION

Enhancing Career & Technology Foundations (CTF) Programming through Community Connections

This year, we've aligned our CTF (option) classes with the provincial Career & Technology Framework, focusing on student voice and choice. As a result, 100% of students are now enrolled in options that interest them, leading to increased engagement, reduced absenteeism, and fewer classroom management concerns.

Our next step is to deepen these programs by building connections with the community to enhance student learning experiences. These could include guest speakers, workplace tours, mentorship opportunities, or virtual collaborations with industry professionals.

Questions for School Council:

1. How can we best utilize our community to support and enrich our CTF programming?
2. Do you have suggestions for specific individuals, organizations, or businesses we could reach out to for partnerships?
3. Would parents be willing to take the lead or assist in making these connections, such as coordinating with their workplaces or introducing us to contacts they know?
4. What types of community partnerships or experiences would have the most impact on students' learning and engagement?

We value your input as we explore creative ways to bring real-world connections into our CTF classes and prepare students for future success.

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents often ask how they can best support their child's classroom teacher and the school community. Ask your child specific questions at the end of the day that are framed in a positive manner that promotes a growth mindset. For example:

- What was your favourite part of the day today?
- What did you do during recess?
- What made your teacher smile today? What made him/her frown?
- Who is the friendliest person in your class?
- What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- Tell me about something kind you did for someone today. Did someone do something nice for you?
- Who is someone at school who could use a friend?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- What are you looking forward to tomorrow at school?

Thank you to all families for:

- Communicating respectfully and thoughtfully to teachers - in emails, on the phone and in face-to-face communications
- Supporting your child with their learning goals
- Meeting your commitments with transportation & school fees and staying in touch with the office if you need extra time or consideration
- Supporting your child's social-emotional growth: learning the value of good manners, appreciating differences, contributing to the greater good, saying sorry, learning to forgive, working hard and playing hard too, being kind to ourselves and to one another, the power of prayer, giving service to others...

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We will be continuing with our week at a glance which is posted on our website and emailed to parents. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the classroom teacher or school administration. Teachers welcome parents to contact them directly by calling the school or sending

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them a message. Please note that if they are teaching, on supervision or unable to take your call we ask that you leave a message and they will get back to you by the next work day. In our commitment to honour family time, we will work hard not to send messages between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM unless there is an emergency.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is a means for parents and the community to work together to support and enhance student learning. School Council provides a venue for parents to reflect on their wishes for the broader community of education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal.

Roles that are not to be taken on by a School council include:

- School governance
- Employment issues
- School management
- Listening to complaints.

Thank you to our parents for continuing to work in a team to meet the goals of the School Council.