



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

LIGHTING THE WAY

*Rejoicing In
Our Journey*



Our Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools
2014 and Beyond

A Message From the DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

I am extremely pleased to present *Lighting the Way – Rejoicing in our Journey: Our Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools, 2014 and Beyond*. The mission of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board is:

Walking together in Christ's light with parish and family, we are called to build a safe and inclusive Catholic learning community and to serve as partners in the formation of life-long learners by:

- Living our faith;
- Promoting educational achievement and innovation;
- Fostering stewardship, leadership and social justice.

This mission provides focus and direction for our daily work throughout our Catholic school system. It also proudly proclaims who we are, what we aspire to and what we stand for in this community. Its achievement depends on our ability to develop and implement a plan to get there. That is why I am so proud of this plan: it provides the roadmap for us to achieve our mission.

This plan also enables us to approach our future challenges and opportunities through an agreed upon statement of our goals, beliefs and aspirations. And if we make our decisions and actions based upon the criteria of this plan, we can be confident that we are growing toward the fullest realization of our Mission Statement.

Our Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools is found on pages three and four of this booklet. It is my hope that the plan is informative and clear; so that everyone - all teachers and employees, all principals and managers, all pastors and parishoners, all parents and students - can easily see and understand our goals. I also hope that it is invitational; so that each of us understands we all have a role in helping to implement the plan.

We are truly a Catholic community committed to providing the best possible education for our students, in a learning environment where the teachings of Jesus our Saviour are central to our mission and celebrated every day.



God Bless,
Dan Parr
Director of Education

A Message From the CHAIR OF THE BOARD

A Catholic school must be a place where all knowledge and relationships are transformed by questions of meaning, by the quest for meaning. We must have a profound respect for what is all too often repressed in this culture - that quiet voice which expresses the infinite desire of each person for God. We must "grasp firmly the challenge of providing a kind of education whose curriculum will be inspired more by reflection than by technique, more by a search for wisdom than by the accumulation of information."

(Pope John Paul II, 1984, Newfoundland).

This is a very exciting and hope-filled time for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. As trustees, we are honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of being stewards of Christian education and formation for our students. We are also charged with providing leadership and governance which facilitates high levels of achievement for all students and wise, frugal management of public resources. As a board, we believe so strongly in these three goals that we have reaffirmed our commitment to them as the core priorities of our mission:

- Living our faith;
- Promoting educational achievement and innovation;
- Fostering stewardship, leadership and social justice.

As we pursue these three core priorities through this *Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools*, I am confident that we will lead our organization toward a very positive future for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board – a future that we all want for our children and our community.

Catholic education has a proud and accomplished history in Lambton County and Chatham-Kent. It is upon this solid foundation that our future direction is built. Working together with our families and our parishes, we embrace this *Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools* as a very solid roadmap into our future. I encourage all of us to study it (on pages 3-4 of this booklet) and that each of us will commit to doing our part to implement it. Together, we can accomplish great things.



Respectfully,
Carol Bryden
Chair, Board of Trustees



LIGHTING THE WAY - REJOICING IN OUR JOURNEY

Our Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools
2014 and Beyond

OUR MISSION

Walking together in Christ's light with parish and family, we are called to build a safe and inclusive Catholic learning community and to serve as partners in the formation of life-long learners by:

- Living our faith;
- Promoting educational achievement and innovation;
- Fostering stewardship, leadership, and social justice.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	GOALS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS	DESIRED RESULTS
LIVING OUR FAITH	<p>We will live our faith when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work in all ways to be living examples of our Mission as a Catholic school board. • Our Catholic elementary and secondary schools are first choice for all Catholic families in our region. • Our Catholic faith is present in all aspects of our curriculum and visible in our school environments. • We provide adult faith formation for our staff. • Information about our quality Catholic school system is readily available in our community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our faith will be recognized as the foundation for who we are as a Catholic school system. • Our employees will model and teach our Catholic faith by word and examples. • Our Catholic faith, sacramental life and commitment to social justice will be taught, learned and lived in partnership with parishes and homes. • The community will be well-informed about the Catholic programs, services and choices that we offer.
PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND INNOVATION	<p>We will promote educational achievement for all when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our students' learning experiences are 21st-Century: reflective of the global and digital age in which we live, rich in critical thinking, creativity and citizenship and enhanced by technology. • Our students achieve their highest levels of appropriate educational and personal development. • We prepare our students for academic and practical success through innovative career-based opportunities involving Colleges, Co-operative Education and Apprenticeships. • We commit to high levels of achievement and well-being for all students through professional learning that is collaborative, job embedded and responsive to their needs within a caring Catholic culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our educators will be skilled at providing 21st-Century learning and our learning environment will be equipped to do so. • Our students will achieve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developmentally appropriate literacy and math benchmarks in the primary and junior divisions; 2. Level 3 in literacy and numeracy in the intermediate and senior divisions; 3. 16 credits by the completion of grade 10; 4. Increased graduation rates. • Our partnerships and programs will create valuable opportunities for student development both within and beyond the classroom, that prepare them well for the future. • Our principals and teaching staff will continually learn and collaboratively develop best practice teaching and learning strategies.
FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	<p>We will foster stewardship, leadership and social justice when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We model behaviour that is ethical, courageous and deeply rooted in our faith. • We are responsive, transparent and accountable in our actions and decisions. • We make wise decisions on the use of human and public resources and facilities in our care. • We are an active participant in the communities in which we work. • We all care for God's creation by managing and reducing our carbon footprint in measurable ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimum use will be made of all our resources, schools and related facilities. • Communication, inclusion and fiscal responsibility will underpin all our resource management decisions. • We will take significant steps to show leadership in environmental responsibility, energy use and ecological practice. • We will be recognized as valuable partners in community initiatives where we can make a positive difference.

THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING OUR PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

January to September 2014

January 2014

- Presentation of the development process to the Board of Trustees and Executive Council.
- Leaders of all employee groups were informed of the development process.
- The Kent and Sarnia Deaneries were informed of the development process and invited to participate.
- Information was provided to the system of our intent to embark on Strategic Planning. Employees were invited to participate through a web-based survey.

February 2014

- The Board of Trustees and Executive Council reconfirmed our commitment to the Mission Statement and began to form the goals of our Core Priorities.
- Principals, program leaders, and managers participated in a consultation session to develop our long-range goals.
- Representatives of all Catholic School Advisory Councils and parish representatives were invited to participate in a consultation session.

March 2014

- A web-based survey invited all stakeholders to provide their input.

April 2014

- A draft list of our long-range goals was presented to the Board of Trustees, Executive Council and our principals and vice principals.
- Executive Council worked with staff to develop short-term targets for our goals, and a process to monitor and communicate our progress.

May 2014

- The Board of Trustees received in draft the new strategic plan *Lighting the Way – Rejoicing in our Journey: Our Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools, 2014 and Beyond*.

June 2014

- Board of Trustees approved the new strategic plan *Lighting the Way – Rejoicing in our Journey: Our Plan for Excellence in our Catholic Schools, 2014 and Beyond*.

September 2014

- Rollout and communication to all stakeholders.
- Implementation, monitoring and reporting of the new plan began.

HOW WE WILL MONITOR AND REPORT OUR PROGRESS

Each of our three Core Priorities has an accompanying set of specific goals. Annually, Executive Council will consult with staff to determine:

- The actions, investments, and initiatives that will be implemented in the following year to achieve these goals;
- The specific, short-term targets that will tell us if we are making timely progress toward our goals;
- A clear and transparent way to communicate progress on our short-term targets to the Board of Trustees, the system, and the community we serve.

These actions, targets, and reporting methods will be developed each spring and presented each August to the Board of Trustees and system leaders. Then, regularly throughout the year, Executive Council will make status reports to trustees and the system.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

HOW I WILL HELP TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Carol Bryden
Chair of the Board



John Van Heck
Vice Chair



John Fontaine
Trustee



Anita Labadie
Trustee



Michelle Parks
Trustee



Brenda Rumble
Trustee



Linda Ward
Trustee

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION



Dan Parr
Director
of Education



Jim McKenzie
Associate Director –
Corporate Services &
Treasurer



Ann Sutton
Superintendent
of Education



Deb Crawford
Superintendent
of Education

BOARD CHAPLAIN



Deacon Jerry Lozon



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DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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