



2022-2023 Budget Focuses on Wellness and Learning Recovery for All Students

The Board of Trustees has passed a \$125,815,736 budget for the 2022-2023 school year, which makes wellness of all students and staff a priority and focuses on learning recovery for all students.

"The Board's Always Ready Action Plan is the blueprint for development of this budget," says Scott Johnson, Director of Education. "We continue to focus on balancing supports for all students through Special Education, Mental Health, Learning and Innovation and Risk Management."

"Wellness and recovery from COVID-19 for all students and staff will continue to be a priority for St. Clair Catholic in the 2022-2023 school year. The budget includes \$1.7 million in recovery supports," says Amy Janssens, Associate Director – Corporate Services & Treasurer.

Priorities of the 2022-2023 budget include:

- Continuing into year two of a three-year mental health and addictions strategy and annual action plan for mental health, informed by School Climate Survey results;
- A focus on re-engagement and awareness through the Board's Equity Advisory Committee, Indigenous Education Action Plan, Special Education Plan, and supports for English language learners;
- Focus on curriculum – a continued implementation of revised curriculum and Math Up for Grades 1-8; Reading success for all in Grade 1; and implementation of new resources in the *Growing in Faith – Growing in Christ* curriculum for Grade 8; a de-streamed Grade 9 implementation plan; supporting literacy and numeracy for Grades 7 to 12;
- Supporting at-risk students for graduation;
- Re-engagement of secondary students in experiential learning and pathways planning;
- Board-owned devices and strong connections to the broadband network for every student and classroom educator.

"I want to thank Amy Janssens and her team for once again delivering a budget that focuses on our students by making wellness and learning recovery a priority," says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. "Congratulations and well done!"

Budget estimates for 2022-2023 are in compliance with all Ministry of Education accountability and reporting requirements. The approved budget will now be forwarded to the Ministry.

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Father Chris Gillespie Appointed Board Chaplain

The Board of Trustees has appointed Father Chris Gillespie to the position of Board Chaplain, effective July 1, 2022. Father Chris replaces Deacon Jerry Lozon, who has announced his retirement after having served as Chaplain for 10 years.

"I am pleased to announce that Father Chris, with the support of Bishop Fabbro, has accepted the invitation to serve as our next Board Chaplain," says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. "He is no stranger to St. Clair Catholic. As our neighbour and friend, he has frequently celebrated Mass for Board staff, both at Our Lady Help of Christians Church and here at the Catholic Education Centre and we are delighted that he will be joining the Board in this new role."

Father Chris is currently the Pastor of the Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes, which includes St. Michael, Dresden; Sacred Heart Port Lambton; and Holy Family and Our Lady Help of Christians, Wallaceburg.

Father Chris was born in Scotland and immigrated to Canada with his family at the age of one-and-a-half years. He grew up in Sarnia and attended St. Patrick's Catholic High School. He studied for the priesthood at St. Peter's Seminary in London and was ordained in 1997 at St. Peter's Cathedral.

Following ordination, Father Chris served as Associate Pastor at the former St. Pius X, now Holy Family parish in London, Mary Immaculate in London and St. Peter's Cathedral. For 11 years, Father Chris served as a Reserve Army Chaplain and did a tour of duty in Bosnia.

On his return to Canada, he served as Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Stratford, St. Joseph in Clinton, St. James in Seaforth and St. Patrick's in Dublin. In addition to his current role as Pastor for the Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes, he is also Episcopal Vicar for the Kent Deanery.

"I also want to pay tribute to Deacon Jerry and express our great appreciation for his long service to this Board, as a teacher, principal and finally Board Chaplain," says Scott Johnson, Director of Education.

Previous to his appointment as Chaplain, Deacon Jerry Lozon was a former teacher and principal with St. Clair Catholic, having retired in 2005.

"With experience, wisdom and deep faith, he has served four Directors of Education and three Boards of Trustees in the role of Board Chaplain. On behalf of the entire Board, I say a heartfelt 'thank you.'"

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