



Grande Prairie and District
Catholic Schools

Inspire. Create. Believe.

Media Release

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Fall 2019/2020: Welcome Back to School



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TO SCHOOL
2019-2020

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SEPT 03, 2019

The start of another school year is an exciting time! Children in our District embark on a faith journey where academic rigor and values-based teaching, prepares your child for graduation. Our inclusive faith-based community supports children every step of the way, as they continue to grow towards their future. Parents can trust that staff will connect with their children and to something bigger, as they assist students with opportunities to live a full and productive life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We offer numerous Faith permeation professional development activities for staff, so they are more equipped to help students grow in their faith and love of Christ. We offer staff, several retreat opportunities in spring at Kananaskis, including S.P.I.C.E (Sharing Purpose in Catholic Education) for support and Blueprints for administrators. Professional development is available for teachers who deliver the Sacraments and for teachers who are interested in learning about how to best permeate the faith in classes. David Wells, renowned Teacher, Catechist & Author, will fill our staff's hearts with love at our annual District Faith Development Day on January 31, 2020.

Each year we celebrate several staff with the Ambassador of Christ Recognition Award, honoring extraordinary individuals who demonstrate the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, modesty and more.



Monthly Family Connect Days are new this year. If you have time once (or more) throughout the school year, we would love to connect with you and your family, showing you how you can be a more active leader in your child's faith life.

Our Board's Vision is to assist everyone by Bridging Faith, Life, & Education. The Board's Mission is to love and serve our communities through a Christ-Centered Catholic Education. Key areas of focus will include: Faith Permeation by Connecting to Something Bigger, Literacy, Numeracy, Inclusive Education, Supporting New Teachers, Early Learning, Indigenous Student Achievement and Leadership Development.

On August 26, we celebrated the site blessing and sod turning ceremony of our new 900-student school at O'Brien Lake West. The new home of École St. Gérard will continue with its strong focus on academic excellence, extracurricular, French language and culture, sense of community, and the permeation of our faith. St. Patrick's Modernization is moving forward as well, currently in the pre-tender selection process. The two schools are on schedule to open prior to or during the 2021-2022 school year.

To help some of our children with higher needs, a select group of teachers and support staff are piloting an Inclusive Education Action Plan this September. Working in cooperation with specialized service teams, they will focus their efforts on better meeting specific student needs. We believe that everyone has worth and value and inclusive learning environments foster inclusive communities where children learn alongside one another.

This year we want to connect with you! We will be seeking input at a future date and will provide a way for staff, parents and community stakeholders to provide input and comments on future initiatives and projects.

Learn more about our District online at www.gpcsd.ca. Follow us on Facebook @ Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools and on Twitter @GPCSD.

Peace, and have a great start this school year!

Karl Germann, Superintendent of Schools