



Media Release

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New Catholic School Announcement: O'Brien Lake West

Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools thanks the Provincial Government and is proud to announce the upcoming construction of our new Kindergarten to Grade 9 school in O'Brien Lake West. This new 950 student school will address quickly emerging school capacity issues in the north & south of Grande Prairie. Our Catholic School District experienced 25% growth in five years, leaving no flexibility for students and staff in our City schools.

Various schools throughout the City of Grande Prairie are at capacity or over capacity, and in two cases 21 modular classrooms were tacked onto the end of those schools to temporarily provide much needed classroom space. The schools which are at or over capacity were generally designed to support 400-550 students. When modular classrooms are added onto those schools they begin to impact them in various ways. Support spaces like additional gymnasiums, cross-ministry, conference, washroom and ancillary spaces are not added onto the school.

The new O'Brien Lake West School will have a core for 950 students. Design work will begin immediately and an anticipated opening date will be Spring 2021. For several years the Trustees have lobbied government for the need to receive funding to construct this school; we chose this site because it is already serviced.

The Board of Trustees will discuss the possible reconfiguration of the schools within the City to better support Community Programming as well as French Immersion, Celtic Academy, Montessori, Fine Arts and more. We also asked the province to include a \$25/day Daycare in the school. This \$25/day Daycare is the Premier's initiative, so we are hopeful that it will happen.

"On behalf of the Students, Staff and Families within our District, I sincerely thank the Premier for recognizing the growth of Catholic Education in our community and approving the construction of the O'Brien Lake West School," stated Chair Michael Ouellette. "Grande Prairie is growing rapidly and this will allow us the opportunity to develop the region."



Grande Prairie and
District
Catholic Schools

“This announcement helps our Board and staff in our Vision to have students and staff achieve personal excellence, be engaged in their communities, and inspire one another to live their life to the fullest,” stated Superintendent Karl Germann.

Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools educates students of all faiths and backgrounds residing in the regional communities of Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Fairview, Sexsmith, and Spirit River. We are a team of approximately 700 full time, part time and casual staff who provide educational and faith-based services to over 5,100 students in 14 schools. Our mission is to provide a student-centered, innovative Catholic Education for our communities. Visit us online at www.gpcsd.ca and follow GPCSD on Facebook and Twitter.

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