

My Philosophy of Catholic Education
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Faith is rooted in every aspect of my life; it is embedded in how I make decisions and in my instructional pedagogy within my classroom. It provides me with direction and drives me in all my pursuits. My life is enriched and actions ultimately guided by my faith. For administrators and educators it is a duty and privilege to ensure that students receive instruction in Catholic doctrine and practice. Catholicity is more than just a word it describes a lifestyle that represents who Catholics are. Working within a Catholic community allows me to openly practise and share my faith passionately as a Roman Catholic inside and outside the classroom.

Catholic Commitment to the Church

An effective leader must foster the Catholic faith in their community modeled through Catholic values. The Catholic leader is responsible for building a community that upholds the dignity of all. When I finished University, a member of my parish encouraged me to join the Knights of Columbus. It was an opportunity to intimately contribute to the Church community. The Knights are a charitable organization of Catholic men that support religious outreach, promote vocations, and provide financial support for seminarians and postulants. My experience as a Third Degree Knight has allowed me to support my Church and strengthen my own personal faith by actively doing meaningful works such as youth programming, and Christmas Basket Drive for those in need.

Catholic Leadership

An effective leader, is one who is able to set direction and present clear goals. They have a clear strategic plan. The gospel values should foster that direction and the values of Jesus Christ should be apparent in everything from the culture of the school to priorities within the operations budget. I have been fortunate to have the pleasure as a teacher to open up two new schools in my career. Experiences that allowed me to co-develop with other staff and administrative teams the Catholic tone and culture in those school communities. Establishing prayer tables in classrooms, ensuring all students were familiar with the Catholic Graduate Expectations, starting all days and meetings with prayer were only a few of the routines we established early on.

As a Eucharistic Minister, I am able to serve in partnership with the parish priest at school masses. It empowers me to observe Communion and to show participation in the body of Christ with my students and staff.

Promotion of Board Culture

An effective leader must develop and implement opportunities for effective faith formation, professional learning, leadership, and reviewing performance in order to develop and sustain individuals and teams. To build and sustain relationships within a school, the principal

needs to demonstrate effective teamwork, a commitment to respectful working relationships and display confidence, optimism, hope, resilience, integrity and trust to their staff, students and community. As an effective leader, I can then connect to the wider community by working collaboratively with all partnerships to foster a culture of change based on authenticity, ethical behaviour and practices. I am a former student, privileged educator and aspiring administrator in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. I have been fortunate to experience and witness board culture through these lenses. As an OECTA representative, I have been worked in collaboration with the teachers union to ensure the treatment of employees reflect the boards mandate. As the Teacher in Charge, I have been responsible for maintaining the implementation of school policies and practices reflect the Board's values. As a Special Education Resource Teacher, I have advocated for students at IPRC meetings ensuring the Board's mission is articulated.

Instructional Leadership

I believe that an effective leader sets high expectations for learning outcomes and monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of instructions. They act as a model of instructional leadership in the print materials they distribute to the staff and community, how they run staff meetings and in how they seek out their own professional development. I have created and co-constructed a number of technology focussed After School PD session and Summer Institutes that integrate the attributes of the curriculum design process. I have also been fortunate to attend a number of professional development workshops including junior mathematics workshops, PRIME training, and equity workshops. My Board training has properly prepared me to administer both primary and junior EQAO assessments to my students. It has enriched me as a special education teacher to provide for my students and collaborate with staff to use learning teams to encourage interactive and mutually supportive relationships focussed on improving instruction through curriculum development, CSI, PAR, differentiated instruction, integrated technology and TLC's.

An effective principal creates the conditions for success of their school; they are accountable to their students, parents, parish, teachers and community. They are motivated to walk in the light and give of themselves to their school, teachers, support staff, students and parish. They are ever reflective and always maturing in their faith and professional leadership. All of these skills, attitudes, practices and knowledge are the mission of an effective Catholic leader. These competencies extend beyond the system, and by understanding living faith, applying it in one's own life experiences and sharing it, is truly leading, as each day presents a new adventure.