



Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George Define Core Values

We celebrate Catholic Schools week in British Columbia February 5-11, 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a document that was recently approved by Bishop Wiesner and the Board of Directors of the Catholic Independent Schools. This document is the statement of Core Values for the Catholic schools in the diocese of Prince George.

When I first came to CISPG as superintendent in the summer of 2009, I had the privilege of meeting with a diverse group of people who had passionate, significant links to, and ideas about one or more of the Catholic schools within our diocese. This group met 2 or 3 times with the purpose of becoming a Visioning Committee for our schools. It became evident very quickly that potential visions for our schools can be as diverse as the number of people within the diocese.

I realized that these people, and others like them both within and outside of the city of Prince George, wanted to contribute and have a voice in planning for the future of all CISPG schools. And so, how could this be accomplished? Bishop Gerald Wiesner promotes and supports the principle of subsidiarity. Our schools and parishes run very smoothly based on this principle. The key to the success is a common vision, rooted and grounded in the Catholic Church. From the Catholic Schools perspective, how could we be sure that we are staying united on key educational ideals and at the same time following the principle of subsidiarity? Over the next year or so, I listened to the voices I heard: voices of Parents, Students, Staff, School Councils, Pastors, Parishioners, and Parish Councils. Though the communities or situations were unique and individual, the messages were, in many ways connected, united, and alike.

People wanted their school to be a reflection of and a support to the saving mission of the Church; a place where children would learn about and feel free to express their faith in the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church.

They wanted their students to do well, academically, athletically, in the arts, and in the areas of social, emotional, and spiritual growth. They wanted their students to be a reflection of the teachings of the church in the areas of service, social justice and the value of all persons. They wanted their children to develop into responsible, contributing members of the community, leading good lives and making good choices.

Out of the commonalities of these voices was born a set of Core Values; common principles that our schools can use to guide their internal conduct as well as their relationships with the external world.

I believe the Core Values that follow echo what I heard in each of your communities. I believe they represent common principles that each school can use to keep our schools unified yet unique, growing together, yet remaining distinct. It is these values, used as a reflection of the teachings of our church that will guide the decisions of our schools and lead us forward into the future.

Sincerely,

Lynn McCracken
Superintendent of Schools



Core Values for CISP Schools

1. Faith

We accept Jesus Christ as the centre and source of our life in faith; he shares with us God's unconditional love.

We embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a model for our lives.

We embody our Catholic faith tradition and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Excellence

We uphold a constant love of learning.

We are dedicated to excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts.

We pursue continual improvement and are committed to the growth of the **whole** person and **all** persons.

3. Service

We foster working together in our classrooms, schools, parish communities and communities at large through activities and events that support Community building and teamwork.

We nourish an awareness of the needs of others and strive to show the compassionate face of Christ.

4. Dignity and Respect

We are called to value all persons.

We treat others with compassion, dignity and respect.

We acknowledge the diversity of others.

5. Responsibility

We affirm good judgement and trustworthy behaviour.

We lead through example.

We live a life of responsibility; moral, personal and social.