

***Statement of
Philosophy and Practice
for Catholic Schools***



*Catholic Schools Commission
(Manitoba) Inc.*

MISSION STATEMENT

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS COMMISSION (MANITOBA) INC.

*The Catholic Schools Commission
provides opportunities for
excellence and success in
learning for all students within
a faith centered community.
Our schools promote a safe
learning environment where
each person is recognized as
having unique gifts from God. We
are called to support and affirm
students and staff to commit
themselves to serve others
in the spirit of the Gospel.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS COMMISSION (MANITOBA) INC.

Archdiocese of St. Boniface and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg

Statement of Philosophy and Practice for Catholic Schools

“The Catholic school has a particular obligation to create an atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love in the school community, to help the young in the development of their own personality in such a way that at one and the same time they grow in accordance with that new creature into which they have been transformed through baptism, and it should so orient the whole of human culture to the message of salvation that the knowledge which the students gradually acquire of the world, of life and of humankind is illumined by faith.” (*Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, Canon 634*)

As followers of Jesus Christ living out Gospel values, we are entrusted with the mission of assisting people to arrive at the fullness of the Christian life. Under the leadership of the Diocesan bishops, we teach the mystery of Christ incarnate for today’s world based upon sacred Scripture, Tradition, sacramentality, liturgy, community life, the teaching office and the service of the Church.

The Catholic School is a unique environment in which pupils can experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. The School’s focus is on the individual’s spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical development. In the Catholic School, pupils, parents, teachers and staff are drawn to proclaim the Gospel message, to unite in worship, to respond to the needs of the community through hospitality and social justice, and to serve all people through the sharing of their spiritual gifts and temporal goods.

Intellectually, pupils are challenged to work to the best of their abilities. In a world of diversity and absolutes, pupils need to be free to appreciate and understand our universe, the people and cultures that inhabit it, and to develop global perspectives by which lives and consciences are formed. Pupils are provided opportunities to develop basic academic and physical skills, pursue knowledge, and critically study and analyze the world in which they live. The Catholic School student accepts the Christian responsibility for fulfillment of personal potential and to share his/her gifts with others.

TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THIS:

- The Catholic School **provides** a CCCB (Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops) approved religious education program that includes doctrinal content, liturgical celebrations, and varied religious experiences to help students discover and express their identity and mission.
- The Catholic School **encourages** close, active co-operation between family and school, and fosters the integration of the school community into the life of the parish, diocese, and the Universal Church.
- The Catholic School **fosters** a climate in which we nurture an inclusive community where students, teachers, parents and all the people of God feel welcomed and valued.
- The Catholic School **transcends** sectarianism and parochialism and lives instead with authentic love of self and others and in solidarity with all people.
- The Catholic School **provides** an academic program that meets Manitoba Education and Training standards.
- The Catholic School **demonstrates** a special option for the poor and weak providing particular attention to those in need. Ultimately, the justice of the community is measured by its treatment of the powerless and poor.
- The Catholic School **values** the centrality of the sacraments and experiences a sense of wonder and awe at the sacred in our midst, a feeling of the nearness of God in the everyday.
- The Catholic School **empowers** action on behalf of justice and evangelization in response to the Gospels.
- The Catholic School **teaches**, explicitly and throughout the curriculum, the universality of God's self-disclosure, fostering respect for other religious traditions, readying people for dialogue with diverse perspectives.

- approved March 20, 2000:

- † MICHAEL BZDEL, C.SsR.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg for Ukrainians
- † ANTOINE HACAULT
Archbishop of St. Boniface
- † BISHOP STEFAN SOROKA
Auxiliary Ukrainian Bishop of Winnipeg

<><> **References** <><>

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