



# THE LIVING WATERS BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

## Mission

Here in Living Waters Catholic Schools our goal is that every child who enters our doors will graduate successfully from a faith-filled safe and caring environment prepared for future success.

## Vision

Transforming the educational experience in our schools through high-yield instructional practices and relevant, engaging and inspirational relationships based on Catholic ethics.

## Values

**Catholic Faith:** Having the right to a Catholic education and the responsibility that entails.

**Integrity:** Acting honestly, ethically and with principles, thereby earning the trust of others.

**Accountability:** Having the responsibility to meet commitments and being transparent in decisions and actions.

**Excellence:** Growing and promoting lifelong learning for students, staff and Board members to achieve our highest potential.

**Diversity:** Respecting learners' differing needs, cultures and abilities within inclusive learning environment.

## Building a Blueprint for the Future of Education in Living Waters

"Every Child who is born is a gift of Joy and Hope". These words of Pope Francis give us our inclusive and welcoming mandate. When they come to us it is our covenant responsibility to ensure that each one is nurtured in these graces, provided with a safe and caring environment, and with the support and care necessary to fulfill their potential. To accomplish this we have developed a "Made in Living Waters Blueprint for the Future".

This Blueprint will be based on the following principles. It will be:

### 1) Inclusive and Welcoming

Key components of an inclusive and welcoming education are:

- Establishing Inclusive Values and Principles
- Building Inclusive Learning Environments
- Providing Supports for Success
- Organizing Learning and Instruction for an Inclusive and Welcoming Setting
- Engaging with Parents and the Community

### 2) A faith-filled school environment

- Inspired by a supernatural vision
- Founded on a Christian anthropology
- Animated by communion and community
- Imbued with a Catholic world view throughout its curriculum
- Sustained by Gospel witness

### 3) Transformational: With a focus on the three E's of Inspiring Education

All learning will provide every child with the Educational supports necessary to become: "Engaged thinkers, and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit."

**4) Relevant:** The needs of students in the Living Waters communities will be a first priority, within the context of the general curriculum and assessment requirements of Alberta Education.

**5) Engaging:** The Blueprint will ensure that students are provided with programs that provide opportunities to be actively engaged in their learning. The parents and community will be engaged in the education programs of the school.

## Our Supporting Documents:

### Inspiring Education

<https://inspiring.education.alberta.ca/>

### Ministerial Order on Student Learning

<http://education.alberta.ca/department/policy/standards/goals.aspx>

### Curriculum Redesign

<http://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/curriculum.aspx>

### Technology Framework

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/policyframework.aspx>

### Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools

<http://www.livingwaters.ab.ca/docs/library/Five%20Essential%20Marks%20of%20Catholic%20Schools.pdf>

### Truth and Reconciliation Resources

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=893>

### Inclusive Education

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/supportingstudent/schoolleaders/indicators.aspx>

### Student Voice

<http://www.livingwaters.ab.ca/documents/general/Student%20Voice%20Feb%202016.pdf>



# Vision 2020

In order to accomplish the goals of Inspiring Education and the Ministerial Order in a manner that will be both professionally rewarding and broadly coordinated we need to be clear about the goals and the means by which we achieve them. This proposal sets out a five-year adjustment period in which we will work to move from where we are now to an educational environment that incorporates the philosophy, goals and objectives of Inspiring Education. Progress from the present environment and instructional process to a new one through this adjustment period will not necessarily be consistent across schools, subjects or individuals, but the mandate is clear and unequivocal. We believe that the five-year timeframe should be sufficient to implement the changes necessary. The endpoint should not change but the method and process will change based on individual schools and community needs.

Two huge challenges face us in this task. While it might be tempting to see the changes as purely changes in instructional practice, and that will need to happen; the more fundamental change will be in how our system changes. Classrooms will need to operate differently. Schools will need to operate differently. Communication methods and language will need to change. New policies and procedures will need to be considered and old ones abandoned. Relationships both inside and outside the system will be challenged. The second challenge will face the leadership at all levels from the classroom to the central office. These changes will need to be organized, coordinated and implemented while the process of education continues. Here again, communication, relationship building and patience will be high on the list of strengths that will see this process through to a successful 2020.

## By 2020:

### a) Students will

- Learn independence and personal responsibility
- Learn to see problems and to solve them
- Willing to be engaged in their learning and work collaboratively and cooperatively with others
- Have a Learning plan and goal for their learning
- Learn to have high personal standards
- Experience and engage in the value of a Catholic faith-based education
- Develop their voice and learn to use it effectively and thoughtfully

**The Mind shift that will need to occur for teachers and students**

Traditional Learner	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learner
• Sit and get	• Move, experiment
• Learner as receptor	• Learner as initiator
• Expectations same for all	• Student navigates choices
• Product oriented	• Process & product oriented
• Teacher tells	• Student constructs meaning
• Paper/pencil driven	• Technology enhanced learning; multi media driven
• Explicit directions	• No limits
• Isolated learning; private	• Shared globally; collaborates
• Compliant	• Problem solver
• Answers are primary	• Questions are primary
• Closed system	• Open system
• Stayed the same	• Changes constantly
• Knows facts	• Inquirer
• There is a right way	• No right way
• Wait for results	• Immediate gratification

By Facebook/LikeToWrite

**b) The School and Classroom will:**

- Be set up to allow for movement of students throughout the day
- Be set up for flexibility of learning and teaching arrangements
- Be set up for project based learning
- Be well-resourced to meet the learning needs of 2020 students
- Have technology that is portable, accessible, and mobile- available for all
- Occasionally go through time of messiness
- Exemplify the Five Marks of a Catholic School guided by the light of Christ who is the teacher of the Catholic school

**c) Teachers will:**

- Be inclusive and welcoming
- Be attentive and listen to parents, and students in reference to learning needs
- Build positive relationships with students
- Know the learning styles of all students
- Know their own preferred teaching style, and be cognizant that this must change to meet the needs of the students
- Know that there is power in the team so will work collaboratively with their team members
- Accept de-privatization of teaching and welcome support from RCSD and other agencies
- Be up to date in curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and reflective of their practice
- Help students to learn to manage their own learning with passion, purpose and high ethical standards

- Find ways to report on progress in meaningful ways and to find ways to meet and communicate with parents in effective ways.
- Ensure their teaching is in line with the TQS and they adhere to the Alberta Teachers Association Code of Conduct
- Ensure the Five marks of a Catholic school are evident in their work.
- Have a strong understanding of the continuum of supports for Inclusivity,
- Ensure that the practices with the students are Inclusive and welcoming
- Facilitate the students in becoming the managers of their own learning
- Provide opportunities for student voice, choice, movement, and fluidity of learning.
- Provide flexibility of learning arrangements in the classroom
- Give up ownership of the classroom.
- Ensure the ethical use of space, digital citizenship, etc.
- Imbue the Five Marks of a Catholic school into their daily work
- Embrace mentorship opportunities as a mentor and protégé

**d) School Leaders will:**

- Be inclusive and welcoming.
- Set the vision and purpose for the school
- Understand the purpose and align systems
- Find ways to remove barriers
- Ensure the Five Marks of a Catholic school are evident everywhere in their school
- Ensure inclusive and personalized programs are in place based on needs of the student
- Ensure our schools are safe and caring learning environments where all staff and students feel welcomed and respected.
- Ensure school and classroom management procedures are in line with the purpose of the Blueprint
- Be team oriented-use the strengths of the team and the staff
- Meet regularly as a team to plan and ensure implementation of the vision- at least monthly
- Be attentive and listen to the voices of parents, students, staff
- Be up to date on research into pedagogy/leadership/ assessment
- Ensure that teachers are implementing up-to-date pedagogy, curriculum, TQS
- Find new structures or methods to engage, communicate, effectively and meaningfully with parents and the community
- Find ways for the community to be engaged in the school life, and the school to be engaged in the life of the community
- Find ways to maximize the use of all support staff
- Ensure fluidity and flexibility of learning spaces for maximum use
- Support and provide opportunities for mentorship

**e) Educational Assistants will:**

- Support the Five Marks of a Catholic School
- Support the work of the teachers in building an Inclusive Environment for all students

- Become an active part of the Inclusive Education team
- View students through a strength-based lens

**f) Secretaries and Financial Assistants will:**

- Support the Five Marks of a Catholic school
- Be Inclusive and welcoming in the school
- Support the Vision and Mission of the School and the Division

**g) All Support Staff will:**

- Support the Five Marks of a Catholic School
- Be inclusive and welcoming
- Support the Vision and Mission of Vision 2020

**h) Central Office Leadership will:**

- Foster and model an environment that is attentive to the voice of staff, parents, students and the community.
- Support the five marks of a Catholic school in our Office- model and live the vision
- Support and encourage change
- Not judge
- Find ways to remove barriers to moving forward
- Be in the future
- Be well informed regarding the Vision, Leadership and pedagogy
- Ensure the alignment of systems
- Ensure that all administrative Procedures and Policies are supportive of the vision
- Actively seek new methods and opportunities to promote and support mentorship in the jurisdiction

**i) The Board of Trustees will:**

- Support the Five Marks of a Catholic school in our Office- model and live the vision
- Advocate for the resources and facilities necessary for Vision 2020 to become a reality
- Find ways to remove barriers to moving forward
- Communicate the goals of Vision 2020 in the Community, and find ways to engage the voice of students, their parents and the community in meaningful and relevant ways.

Not only will we have to look at programming in order to achieve the vision of our Blueprint and Inspiring education, but we will have to examine and modify or change systems in order to achieve the Vision.

School Administration will have to focus on two aspects of Change- leading change and all of the details of Instructional change.