

SCHOOL LETTERHEAD

Letter to Catholic Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of a Student without Roman Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church

Date

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated _____. Provided that your tax support is directed to the Catholic School System, your (child/children) may attend _____ Catholic School.

Your wish that your (child/children) attend a Catholic school is valued. By expressing an interest for your (child/ren) to become members of a Catholic school community, you are acknowledging and accepting that (name of child/children) will be instructed in the Catholic faith. Please note that the values and traditions of the Catholic faith are integrated in every subject area and in all other aspects of the life of the school. In addition, (name of child/children) will participate in the Religious and Family Life Education programming, where students are provided with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the connection between faith and life.

Instruction in the Catholic faith fulfills *the dual mandate* of Catholic schools in Ontario. This unique *dual mandate* lies at the heart of Catholic education's distinctive identity:

- As publicly-funded education institutions, we are responsible for implementing course expectations and directives from the Ontario Ministry of Education.
- Our schools are also accountable to the Catholic faith community for imparting its core values contained in the Gospel and in the Church's living tradition, as expressed in the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*.

As you discern this important decision concerning your (child's/children's) education, I invite you to reflect on these important documents that outline how the dual mandate is fulfilled in our school system:

1. [The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#)
2. [Renewing The Promise: A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
3. [ALCDSB Annual Pastoral Themes](#)

As members of the Catholic community, students who are baptized Catholics will be receiving the Sacraments of the Church (Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation) at various times in their school experience (e.g.: grade two and grade six, seven, or eight). Should you wish to become members of the Catholic faith or pursue these Sacraments for your child or your family, I encourage you to contact the parish priest connected to our school, (priest's name), at (contact info), who would be happy to support you. Catholic schools are communities that accompany, and it would give us great joy to support you along your journey.

I thank you again for your interest in our school am happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have.

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Sincerely,

Principal

cc: _____, Director of Education
_____, Superintendent of School Effectiveness

ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD