

## Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle 2016 – 2017

### Iona Catholic Secondary School

#### MISSION STATEMENT

##### The Iona Mission Statement

Iona Catholic Secondary School integrates God, Truth and the sanctity of Life into the entire curriculum and the school culture. We are a Catholic educational community guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, gospel values and service to others. We strive for excellence through commitment to life-long learning and are dedicated to the celebration of individual differences. We encourage each individual to reach their potential so that they may become responsible and contributing members of the global community.

#### MOTTO

Life is a Gift

Faith is a Journey

Learning is our Challenge

#### CATHOLIC FOCUS

Iona Catholic Secondary School is committed to the history and rich legacy of our patron saint, St. Columba. The Chaplaincy team at Iona is inspired daily by St. Columba. Known originally as Colm Cille, St. Columba founded the monastery on the Scottish island of Iona in 563 AD. He was called to be a missionary when the Holy Spirit inspired him to go forth and spread the message of Jesus Christ to all of Scotland and Northern England. St. Columba's vision for the island of Iona was to establish a sacred place of prayer and a serene place of learning to cultivate and educate those wishing to spread the message of Jesus.

At Iona Catholic Secondary School, our Chaplaincy team composed of staff and students endeavours to continue St. Columba's vision. We seek to emulate St. Columba and to bring his deep faith and beliefs to life at our school. Our daily prayers and community services effort help to strengthen us as a Christian community and to remind us of the spiritual legacy he left us. When we gather as a school, we encounter Jesus - alive in all of us. When students attend grade level retreats, their faith is deepened and broadened through active works of charity and a pursuit of social justice. In all that we do we constantly reflect and rely on the guidance and example of St. Columba.

*Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.*

In support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board's Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, Iona Catholic Secondary School is further committed to:

- Deepening the understanding, appreciation and reinforcement of a lifestyle appropriate to Catholic teachings;
- Aligning a school-wide approach to and integration of Catholicity, whereby all educational practices are implemented through a Catholic lens;
- Developing students who are fully alive in Christ, not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions;
- As a diverse educational community, when responding to God's call, Iona Catholic Separate School fosters and nourishes an inclusive atmosphere rooted in tradition and scripture while:
  - Being authentic witnesses to our Catholic Faith;
  - Being responsible stewards of God's grace in the world;
  - Respecting human dignity;
  - Modelling all learners after Jesus, as ministers of compassion.

## DUFFERIN PEEL'S STRATEGIC SYSTEM PLAN CORE PRIORITIES

### CATHOLICITY

**How does the school community model, celebrate and nourish gospel values in the teaching and learning of our Christ-centered programs and services?**

In all our subject areas, we incorporate the Catholic lens in all we do. For example:

English/Moderns: Linking reading resources and their themes to stories in the New Testament (ie. in the novel *Lord of the Flies*, many biblical parallels are made with the characters and all literature studied is analyzed critically with reference to life lessons and connections the Catholic faith and the gospel values.

Science: A core theme in Science Lesson is 'God as an Omnipresent Being'.

Theology: Retreat opportunities for student to reflect on their faith journey in the community, Legacy Project, Advent Project, Praying the Rosary, Scripture study, guided meditation, examination of conscience including a deeper understanding of the sacrament of reconciliation, chapel visits, making connections with the Catholic Graduate Expectations, Global Citizenship awareness and implementation of the Catholic Virtues.

Mathematics: collaborative approach to group work and class presentations, moral responsibility, modelling the virtues.

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Art/Guidance/ARD: Focus on respect and model the importance and dignity of each individual within the community.

Physical Education: In any game situations students are asked to act morally, accept accountability, grant forgiveness and promote social responsibility.

Social Science: Environmental stewardship is a focus.

## CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Summary of the school's most recent (2015-2016) EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

- Grade 9 Academic 92% of students at or above Provincial Standard
- Grade 9 Applied 62% of students at or above Provincial Standard

Summary of the school's most recent (2015-2016) Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

- Grade 10 Literacy 86% of students at or above Provincial Standard

### **Describe how the school fosters the continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment.**

The school fosters continuous development through a caring, safe and inclusive environment by organizing student focused activities such as:

Anti-Bullying - Prevention, intervention, acceptance and respect; Grade 9 transition activities throughout the year, focus on student leadership, safe schools. STOP Student Committee (Students Together opposing prejudice) student lead committee focused on inclusivity, anti-bullying and promoting diversity. This committee is also responsible for organizing the Anti-bullying week in November. Our Open Arms club promotes an atmosphere of inclusion for all students and provides support. Monthly virtues and morning prayers are led by students. Multi-cultural day and Black history day celebrate our differences.

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### **How does the school demonstrate that it values the involvement of community through partnerships and collaboration?**

Together with our community, Iona celebrates our partnerships with various organizations on a daily bases. Celebrations and visits by our community include: Ordinanti luncheon, Seminarian visits, religion classes, Vocation Director's Class visits, regular Peel Regional Police visits and ongoing presence, SHSM Reach Ahead opportunities, continuous relationship-building with industries through COOP programs, mental health awareness with CAMH and Adapting to Change night with parent community.

## PARISH – HOME – SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

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**Describe how the school demonstrates strong partnerships and collaboration among Parish, Home and School are based on mutual respect rooted in our lived Catholic Faith.**

Working with Parish, School and Home is a daily focus at Iona. At many celebrations, through our various committees and ongoing communications, our community works together respectfully to promote wellbeing and student success.

Examples include.

Fr Scott celebrates all school masses

Formal invitation for Parish staff to join us for lunch during Catholic Education Week

Chaplaincy Leader works with parish youth minister at St. Christopher's parish

During Catholic Education Week Grade 12 students attend daily parish mass at St. Christopher's parish

Iona faith banners are loaned to parishes to display and promote our school

Grade 9 retreat take place early on Sept 30 with a focus on acceptance

Grade 12 retreat theme: Where do we find God in our World?

Boys' Night/Girls' Night In

Grade 9 Orientation day with Link Crew

Grade 7 and Parent Information Night

Grade 10 Parent Information Night as students transition to Senior Grades

Grade 11 and 12 Parent Information Night as they prepare to transition to post secondary education.

Anti-Bullying activities – prevention, intervention, acceptance and respect

Link Crew Grade 9 Transition activities throughout the year focus on student leadership, safe schools and anti-bullying

STOP student committee leads activities that focus on inclusivity, anti-bullying and promoting diversity throughout the school year. This committee also runs anti bullying week at Iona

Rainbow club promotes an atmosphere of inclusion for all students and provides support (Open Arms)

Monthly Virtues Reflections and Prayers are led by different departments

Multi-cultural Day and Black History month activities celebrate our difference

## **STEWARDSHIP OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Describe how the school committed to healthy and safe learning and working environments that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement.**

As you approach the main entrance to our school, there is a prayer grotto with a statue of the Virgin Mary nestled near a flower bed with accompanying benches. Students, staff and members of the community are invited to sit on the benches and pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Iona takes pride in our school and its physical space, beautification and natural physical features. In collaboration with our custodians, the school is maintained and presents a welcoming environment which fosters learning and positive growth. Our relationships with our neighbours is respectful and ongoing.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**How is the school committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context?**

The school is committed to the technology needs of all our learners by:  
Setting goals regarding the integration of technology.

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Planning effective Mindset Professional Development for staff to encourage optimum and regular cross curricular use of technology in the classroom.

Ongoing support strategies to be available for staff to continue to enable ongoing optimum use of technology in the classroom

Staff development in D2L, OFFICE 365, OUTLOOK and School Calendar

Exploring APPS for Tablets and Google Cromebooks

Ensuring ALL students will have access to technology and software which will enhance learning

## SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

### **How does the school encourage the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling?**

At Iona C.S.S, we actively promote sustainable environment practices through our ECO Club. The club and its members engage in the following:

- Monitor and records our recyclable materials

- Annually monitor electricity use to determine improvements

- Invite students to maintain flower gardens and edible vegetables gardens on school property

- Promote GOOS - recycling paper using the GOOS (Good on one side) method for photocopying purposes

- Ongoing encouragement of the school community regarding Re-use, Reduce and Recycle

Teachers are actively using D2L to reduce photocopies

Introduction of the School Events Calendar to reduce photocopying