

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Secondary School

School Motto or Mission Statement:

“One Through Prayer and Learning”

With Jesus as our Model, the staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Secondary School fosters life-long learning and, together with the family, the parish and the community, strives for excellence in the tradition of Catholic education.

Theme for the Year: *Renewing the Spirit*

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Inspired by the Catholic Education Week theme of “Renewing the Promise,” this theme hopes to illustrate the works of the Holy Spirit through our community, highlighting the gift of Catholic Education.

Retreats:

Grade 9: “Belonging” – Held at Queen of Peace Croatian Church & Center in Norval, all Grade 9’s will join together in September where they will be welcomed into the faith community of Mount Carmel. The day will give students a chance to get to know one another through our common faith and will include Liturgy of the Word, outdoor community building activities led by Crusaders In Action, Salesians and LEAD mentors, a BBQ and time to form new friendships. The retreat will be followed up by homeroom visits to the Chapel to spend time in prayer and reflection with the Chaplaincy Leader. Facilitated by the Chaplaincy Leader and supervised by Homeroom teachers.

Grade 10: “Called to Serve” – As part of our Catholic call to serve the poor and less fortunate, students will spend their retreat day learning about poverty and homelessness in the Region of Peel by visiting and working at either Regeneration Brampton or Knight’s Table Brampton. Together, they will explore our social structures that aid in helping those in need while learning personal stories from those who have faced poverty in their lives.

Grade 11: “Interreligious Dialogue” – Students will visit various places of religious worship including a Jewish synagogue, an Islamic mosque, a Buddhist temple, a Sikh gurdwara and a Hindu mandir. They will have opportunities to tour and learn about the various world faiths that we live in community with to better understand our multi-cultural and interreligious culture and to promote understanding and acceptance. Supervised by Religion teachers.

Grade 12: “Who Am I?” – As they plan for their post-secondary future, students will be guided through a retreat at Rocky Ridge Ranch that provides them with opportunities to share their faith development and acknowledge God’s call for their future. This retreat experience will allow students to engage in the natural wonders of God’s creation while reflecting on their journey in education and faith thus far. Facilitated by the Chaplaincy Leader and supervised by homeroom teachers.

Other retreats:

Planning for Independence Retreat: “Faith and Friendship” – Students in the Planning for Independence Program will attend a retreat that celebrates each other as gifts from God. Through song, prayer and fun activities, this retreat promotes the dignity of the each person and encourages love for one another.

Salesian Leadership Retreat: The Salesian Leadership retreat is offered to Grade 11 students who illustrate a desire to become closer to God through prayer and community. Students from various schools with the DPCDSB attend a three-day intensive retreat in the joyful spirit of St. John Bosco. Through prayer, faith sharing, group activities and sacraments, these youth are inspired and challenged to be active members of the Church. Following these retreats, Salesian leaders work with the Chaplaincy Leader to serve God through the school community.

Club/Team Retreats: “Solidarity and Service” – To enhance the theme for the year, clubs and teams will have opportunities to work together in service and outreach to become more attune with the community in which we live, and to recognize the dignity of the poor and vulnerable. Through this work, students will explore the gifts bestowed upon them by the Holy Spirit to give selflessly to others. (Dr. Simone’s; Samaritan’s Purse; etc)

Leadership Retreat: “Gifts of the Spirit”: - In order to create an environment where student leaders from across the community come together to share their leadership vision and develop the foundation for strong servant leadership, students who attend this retreat to Teen Ranch will participate in outdoor team-building activities in which they will share their talents and understand their own leadership styles. Through prayer, reflection and group challenges, leaders from all areas of extra-curricular life of the school (councils, athletics, arts, tech, etc.) will grow in solidarity and community.

Grade 8 Retreat – “One Through Prayer and Learning” – Grade 8 classes from all feeder schools are invited to a half-day retreat where students are introduced to faith community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel through prayer, activities and fellowship led by the Chaplaincy Leader and members of the Crusaders In Action Chaplaincy group. This opportunity assists in the transition of Grade 8’s into high school, placing faith as central to all we do.

Activities of a Religious Nature

Activities of a Religious Nature with a substantial component of ritual and prayer
Opening Mass – Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Staff Mass – PD Day – October 6, 2017
Grade Level Masses – November 1, 2017 (Gr. 10); November 8, 2017 (Gr. 11)
Sacrament of Reconciliation – December 7, 2017 (Advent); March 21, 2018 (Lent)
Advent Mass – Whole School – December 21, 2017
Ash Wednesday Liturgy – Whole School by Grade – February 14, 2018
Stations of the Cross – Whole School – March 29, 2018
OLMC Community Mass at St. John of the Cross Parish – Sunday, May 6, 2018
Marian Liturgy – Whole School – May 16, 2018
Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Closing Mass – June 1, 2018
Graduation Mass – June 28, 2018
Chapel & Rosary Visits – Homerooms each semester

Other Pastoral/Outreach Activities

Pastoral Activities
Thanksgiving Food Drive – Donations to Mississauga Food Bank / Eden Food Bank / St. Vincent de Paul
When Faith Meets Pedagogy Youth Forum - October
Dr. Simone’s Warehouse – Monthly: September thru May – 25 students per visit with 2 teachers
Christmas Baskets – Supporting families in need during Christmas
Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan’s Purse – December – 15-20 students per visit with 2 teachers
24 Hour ThinkFast – Development and Peace – March – Overnight at school
Bullying Awareness Week – Activities within the school
Remembrance Day – Led by Social Sciences on November 10, 2017
Pro-Life Initiatives – Fundraisers to support Pro-Life charities, March for Life
Interac Club Charity Drives
Wellness Committee – Various campaigns and activities to promote well-being
Eco-Team Stewardship Initiatives
Bereavement Workshop – Led by Bereavement of Ontario through CYW and Chaplaincy
Bereavement Prayer Group – Fourth Monday of each month
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Friday mornings from 7:45am – 8:10am in the Chapel

Catholic Education Week

May 6, 2018 to May 11, 2018 is Catholic Education Week – “Renewing the Promise”

For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” (Acts 2:39)

“Car la promesse est pour vous, pour vos enfants et pour tous ceux qui sont loin, aussi nombreux que le Seigneur notre Dieu les appellera.” (Actes 2, 39)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2018 are as follows:

Monday: **Remembering the Promise / Lundi: Faire mémoire de la promesse**

Tuesday: **The Promise is Within You / Mardi: La promesse est en toi**

Wednesday: **Praying the Promise / Mercredi: Prier la promesse**

Thursday: **Living the Promise / Jeudi: Vivre la promesse**

Friday: **Proclaiming the Promise / Vendredi: Annoncer la promesse**

Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:

OLMC Community Mass at St. John of the Cross on Sunday, May 6, 2018; Morning Prayer highlighting theme; Vocations Awareness day; Grade 12 retreats; Departmental activities to highlight theme and Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations; Other activities as planned by the Pastoral Team and Crusaders In Action (student Chaplaincy group)

Part B: Activities that Support the Catholic Nature of OLMC

Catholicity across the school

In collaboration with each department head, departmental activities and/or events that infuse Catholic teaching, faith formation, and Catholic culture into the curriculum and the classrooms are highlighted. The content within the CGE Faith Planner may be used to support this portion of the Pastoral Plan.

Department	Departmental Activities and/or Events
English & Library	The English Department is in a unique position, in that we have the ability to infuse Catholicity into every element of our teaching. We approach all literature with that lens in mind; each work provides us with the opportunity to have guided discussions with regards to Catholic teaching - morality, ethics, social justice - to name but a few.
Mathematics	In math Catholicity is paramount to everything that we do. In math we teach students how to make decisions based on analysis. We emphasize that good decisions are not always based on numbers but should also be based on our Catholic values. We infuse Catholic values, such as the Beatitudes, into to our instruction, our examples and our assessment. We see Mathematics as an important tool to help our students go into the world and try to live just lives.
Science	The Science Subject Council has begun exploring ways of being more transparent in connecting the Catholic Graduate Expectations to lesson plans and activities in Science. This will be an ongoing initiative to ensure that schools are consistent in their endeavors. Our science department has taken steps to increase the profile of famous scientists who have a led a faith-based life and demonstrated the connection of science and faith.
Religion/Theology & Family Studies	The Religion department continue to foster Catholicity within our classes. In grade 9 our focus is on examining the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes in light of all we do on a daily basis. The grade 10 program focuses on the Old Testament and how we as Catholics can take care of our world and all that is around us. In grade 11 our focus is looking at other faiths and how we are all neighbours and that our faith makes us strong in character and able to respect others in our multi-cultural world. The grade 12 program focuses on taking our faith and venturing out into the larger community where we can continue to develop as Catholics and good citizens.
Moderns	The new French/International language curriculum's main focus is more interactive and culturally based. We will include the study of Churches and Pilgrimage sites in France and Quebec, French saints and religious celebrations.
Social Sciences – Geography, History and Humanities	For courses in CWSSSH, whether they be law, sociology, politics, civics, geography or history, to encompass Catholic social teachings, with emphasis on the development among our students of a strong sense of social justice. The goal is to plant and nurture the seeds of vocation that centers on social justice: teaching, clergy, social work, law, the environment.
Special Education / Academic Resource	In the Academic Resource Department, we continue to build the self-confidence and resiliency of our students by helping them to understand that God has called each one of us by name into this world. In order for our students to be collaborative contributors and responsible citizens, there is a strong focus in our Learning Strategies courses on students developing an understanding of their God-given strengths and abilities.
Guidance & Co-Op	Our department infuses Catholicity throughout our day. In Alternative Education/GPP and the department we move the school to look at social issues with our recognition of the social responsibility to recognize others and events that are significant: Montreal

	Massacre, AIDS awareness campaign, well-being campaigns and many other events , and take into consideration the emotional, spiritual, and well-being of the students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The department through curriculum and experiential learning create a faith filled department that works toward self-directed life-long learning, responsible citizenship, and to become a discerning believer. These attributes and others works to assist our community filled with staff and students to reflect their values inward and to look to how to become better Catholic leaders in the greater community.
Business, Technology & Computer Studies	The technology, computers and business departments see our work as tangible ways of revealing to students their own, "call in life." Each student's innate gifts and talents are further developed and the contribution of these talents and skills are only realized when shared with others. Their talents are a sure sign that God is working through each student to reach them and those around them to a profound and meaningful way.
Physical Education	In the Physical Education department we tie in the Church's' teachings into all of our health units and incorporate the teachings into student assessments. One example is our grade nine Substance Use unit where one part of their assessment asks students to research and explain the Church's' teachings on the topic. We also take advantage of the numerous teachable moments that present them self in the gymnasium and use them to address the some of the Catholic Graduate Expectations.
Art	It is intrinsic within the nature of the visual and performing arts for students to discover and explore the tenets of their Catholic faith. All of our creative talents are God given, as is our nature to share, nurture, and develop them. The virtues of empathy, kindness and compassion are central to studying characters in drama, choosing subject matter for a painting, or encouraging our aspiring musicians. It is impossible to separate the joy and wonder of creative expression from the God who bestowed them.

School Environment reflective of our Faith

These religious icons, symbols and visible expressions of our Catholic identity are present in the school environment:

Chapel – Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, Marian statue, Our Lady statue, prayer colouring, library of Catholic literature, Rosaries, Pick-A-Message inspiration quotes
Chaplaincy Workroom – books for prayer and reflection, meeting room, fellowship
Posters and pictures outside the Chapel vicinity
“Witness” posters throughout the school
Virtue of the Month pillars in the foyer
Scripture quotes throughout school
Prayer / Sacred space in each classroom with Liturgical cloths, prayer books and other items
Green-Room: Outdoor classroom to promote being ecologically friendly
Bulletin boards & Art displays illustrating various community building and faith initiatives
Altar in foyer to create Sacred Space; reminder that all areas of our school are sacred
Cross with Liturgical Colours in foyer to remind community of our Liturgical cycle

Collaborative School Culture

These activities are organized by the School Catholic Community Culture and Caring Action Team:

Breakfast of Champions
Grade 9 Wellness Day
LEAD Mentorship Program
Breakfast Club
Bullying Awareness Week
Mental Health Symposium
RespectED Initiatives
Crusaders In Action (CIA) – Chaplaincy Ministry
Carmel Salesians
Carmel Alliance to support LGBTQ students and promote love and acceptance
Club Fair
Alpha Program – Learning about faith through film, fellowship and food
SpeakUP – Social Justice and Action group
HSB – “High School Base” – Chapter of Couples for Christ

Parish Connections

Planned and existing initiatives that maintain and enhance positive relationships with the local parish communities:

Regular visits by parish priests for Mass, Reconciliation and other liturgical events
Strong communication with Pastoral Associate
Meetings at parish with feeder school administration for yearly planning
Support parish charities (Knights of Columbus initiatives, Christmas Baskets)
High student participation in parish Youth Group and other ministries (altar servers, music, etc.)
Bulletin board design to promote faith at Mt. Carmel
Weekly Mass bulletin blurb
Promote parish events / activities / initiatives through video & tv programming in school
Community Mass – OLMC staff, students and families attend Sunday Mass at parish once per year

Staff Faith Development

Catechesis and faith formation among our staff:

Opportunities for morning prayer in the Chapel
Staff Mass at Fall PD Day
Faith development at monthly staff meetings
Sharing resources of faith development opportunities via email
Conference opportunities (When Faith Meets Pedagogy; Theology Forum)

Transitions

Students supported in the area of Transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9, from Grade 12 to Post Secondary as well as from one grade to another:

LEAD Mentorship Program: Orientation, Retreat, Academic follow-up, other activities
Grade 8 Curriculum Night: Students and parents invited to experience life at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Grade 8 Transition Retreat – “Welcome” – held in April/May/June
Grade 12 Retreat program: Focus on post-secondary plans and how faith will shape future choices
Grade 12 post-secondary assemblies, university/college visits, field trips: Aim to help students integrate the OCSGE’s into their future plans
Grade 12 Sunrise – Build Community and Set goals for the year (September)

Vocations

Vocations to religious life and pastoral ministries promoted through:

Optional Day retreat to Mount Carmel Spiritual Center in Niagara Falls (Fall or Spring)
Ordinandi Student Luncheon
Vocations Day during Catholic Education Week
Resources for graduates about various campus ministries in post-secondary institutions