



Principal Report September 23, 2026

Our new Division theme for 2026-2027 is Rooted in Joy.

Building on last year's theme, People of Hope, we now turn to the joy that comes from a life grounded in God's love.

This year, we will reflect on Galatians 5:22 and consider how joy can take root in our school community. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness..." Galatians reminds us that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Rooted in

Joy calls us to remain grounded in God's love through both celebrations and challenges. Life is a gift from God, and we encounter His love throughout the fullness of that life.

We know that student well-being and learning are closely connected.

Students who feel connected, supported, and hopeful are more likely to engage in learning and persevere through challenges.

Supporting our students, academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually, remains at the heart of our mission and our work here at St. Charles

Let's take a moment to watch our Division Video



Our theme book this year, the little book of joy will serve as a reminder of what Joy can be and what it looks like. This story reminds us that joy is not simply something we experience when life is easy but something we grow by showing gratitude, compassion, kindness and hope. We are encouraged to find joy in our relationships and in service to one another.



Our Education Plan & Optimal Learning

Our Division has created a new 3 Year Education Plan and has identified 9 learning conditions for supporting the achievement of optimal learning.

Optimal Learning is the outcome of aligning curriculum, instruction, and environment to nurture the full potential of every student. It happens when we create the right conditions for learning. Where faith, academic rigor, inclusive practice, and meaningful relationships are interwoven. Optimal Learning is a living commitment to growth, grounded in professional standards and inspired by the belief that every child can flourish. It is both the science of teaching and the art of cultivating hope.

This year's Division focus aligns with our new Education Plan which includes the goal of **Catholic Faith Permeating** whereby **Students will experience the Catholic faith as a living presence, woven into learning, relationships, and daily experiences across all aspects of school life.** Faith is not limited to religion class. It should be visible in our teaching, our relationships, and the culture of our schools, helping students experience God's presence throughout their day.

Our second goal is **Wellbeing & Catholic Spiritual Formation: Students are nurtured with a whole-child approach, shaped by our Catholic identity, that fosters emotional, physical, spiritual, and moral development.** Through a coordinated approach teachers intentionally embed wellness practices throughout the school day and build strong, trusting relationships with our students and families.

Our third goal focuses on **Joy and Rigour: Students feel known, challenged, and supported. Learning is joyful and meaningful, with varied approaches that honour different needs and spark curiosity.** Through practices such as Universal Design for Learning, teachers help students understand the “why” of learning



and are guided through productive struggle. Student learning is shared through portfolios, assemblies, or classroom showcases and growth is acknowledged frequently, formally and informally, by peers, teachers, and administration.

Our fourth goal is **Creativity & Risk Taking: Students think boldly, explore new ideas, and express themselves creatively. Students take risks, try again, and persevere through challenges.**

And finally goal 5, **Ownership of Learning: Teachers co-create learning experiences where students set goals, reflect on progress, and persevere through challenge, with encouragement and timely support.**

Over the next three years, we will deepen our shared work through the Education Plan, and create Optimal Learning conditions in which students can flourish, helping them become the person God created them to be. We want our students to recognize their gifts and use those gifts in service to others.

Our School Community

Currently, our school community is made up of 343 students, including 42 students in Kindergarten and 112 students who are English as an Additional Language learners. This is approximately the same enrollment with which we began last school year. By the end of last year, our enrollment had grown to 360 students, and we anticipate that our enrollment will continue to grow throughout this school year.

We are extremely blessed to have such a committed and dedicated team of teachers and support staff who work together to support the learning, growth, and well-being of our students.



This year, we have two classes in each grade, with the exception of Grade 5, which has three classes. We are also grateful to have continued funding for our Complexity Team, which includes our Complexity Teacher, Mrs. Martire, as well as a Therapeutic Assistant who provides behaviour therapy support. This team plays an important role in helping us meet the diverse learning and well-being needs of our students.

Special Events and Programs for 2026-2027

This year, we are very excited to welcome back Alien In Line for some fun, skill-building skating experiences! We will also spend time learning the sport of curling, developing new skills while having fun together.

Beginning in October we are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Karen Filewych for a week-long literacy residency, where she will help inspire and strengthen our students as young writers. We are also looking forward to welcoming a couple of drama productions to our school, bringing the excitement of live theatre right to our students.

Finally, we will have a special drumming and music residency that will help us find our rhythm, explore music, and experience the joy of making music together.

Rooted in Joy: A Faith and Wellness Journey

We are also starting a year-long wellness program that will help us build a common language around well-being. Each month we will introduce a new focus through stories, conversations and activities. These lessons are guided by our belief that *"We are created by God, known and loved by Him, and called to grow in faith, relationship, and purpose. When we care for our minds, bodies,*



hearts, and spirits, we are better able to experience and share God's joy."

We continue with our monthly student led assemblies which will help us grow deeper in our faith through the fruits of the spirit. Students who let their light shine and demonstrate the fruit will be celebrated with a special lunch with the principal.

Many of our teachers this year applied for week-long off-site learning experiences called inquiring minds School. We have been very fortunate to have eight of our classes be able to attend. These are not just field trips but are directly linked to curriculum and provide students with hands-on, experiential learning. Student learning outcomes and assessment are part of the learning.

This year we will continue with our Roots of Empathy program, led by Laura Montiz our FSLW who will be bringing a new baby into our grade 3B class. This Evidence and empathy based classroom program is designed to foster empathy, social and emotional development through interactive and creative activities.

New this year is our offering of the GLOW Program (Girls Leading Others Wisely) This program is a 8-week leadership curriculum that builds self-esteem, life skills and peer connection through guided activities and meaningful discussions. The program has been in place for 20 years and has empowered girls to grow into confident, capable and compassionate leaders.

In addition to providing reading intervention, we now have a trained teacher in the Empower reading program. Our goal is to reach those students who need more support in developing confidence and skills in Reading acquisition. We also are very fortunate to have our English language educator continue to support our EAL learners



Extra Curricular & School Spirit

Our staff continue to volunteer much of their time to ensure our students experience the very best in sports, leadership, music and more. We are grateful for their gift of time to support a variety of extra curricular activities.

Renovation Update

As you probably noticed our school is in the midst of being painted. The projected completion date should be sometime in the new year. Over the summer new lighting was installed and the final remaining hallway lights in the upper Elementary wing will be replaced. We have also had upgrading of electrical and IT infrastructure

Stay Connected

We hope our families stay connected and the best way is through our school website, especially our website calendar. We are also on Instagram. We will continue to use School messenger for upcoming reminders.