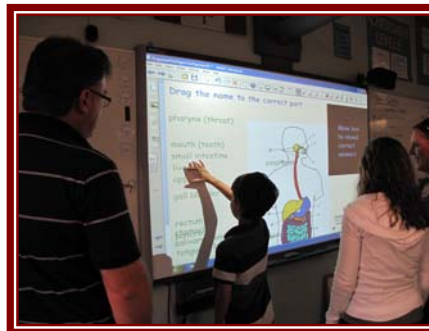
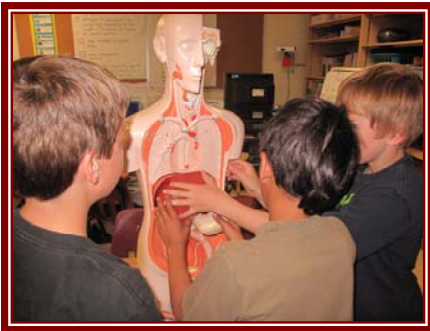




**The Northwest Catholic District School Board**

**2011 – 2012  
Program Strategic Direction  
for  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning**



**Catholic Education:  
Walking in the Light of Christ**

**Mary-Catherine Kelly  
Director of Education**

**Al Cesiunas  
Superintendent of Education**

**A Resource for the Staff of the  
Northwest Catholic District School Board**



## The Northwest Catholic District School Board Strategic Direction for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

### Program 2011-2012

#### Ministry of Education Priorities

1. Increased Student Achievement,
2. Closing the Gap in Student Achievement and
3. Increased Confidence in Public Funded Education.

#### Northwest Catholic District School Board: "Keeping the Course"

1. Success for Students
2. Success for Staff
3. Stewardship of Our Resources

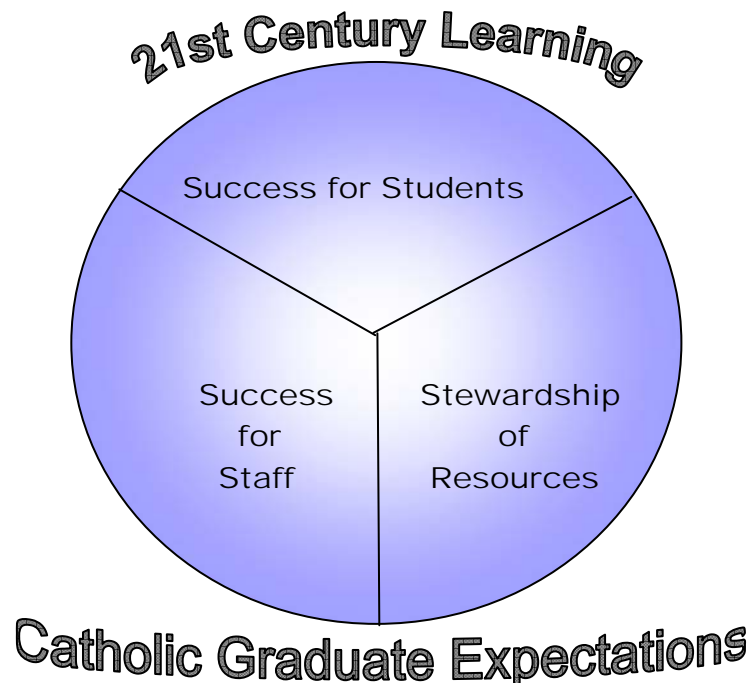
#### The Northwest Catholic District School Board System Goal

Our main academic goal for the entire system and the entire student body is to move all students to the provincial standard of level 3 (75%) or higher in our Catholic Schools that are based on Gospel values where we work in partnership with home, Church and community.

#### Our Instructional Goals for Our Teachers

Our Catholic Board and our Catholic schools will continue moving forward with the "Board's Strategic Direction for the 2011-2012 school year." The areas of focus the Board will continue to work on are:

1. The strategy of Differentiated Instruction to meet the needs of all of the students in the classroom during all parts of a lesson, and
2. The use of data in the Critical Learning Instructional Pathways process to assist teachers in moving student achievement forward in every classroom.
3. To increase student engagement through the use of technological tools that expand curriculum opportunities for student.



## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN – 2011/2012

### Authentic Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

#### Planning

The Northwest Catholic District School Board has created a system plan that sets timelines for reporting to the Board, Ministry of Education and the community at large. The Board has developed a planning process that will enable the organization to review the Strategic Plan, evaluate our progress towards outcomes and create an annual operational planning system.



Learning-by-doing is generally considered the most effective way to learn. The Internet and a variety of emerging communication, visualization, and simulation technologies now make it possible to offer students authentic learning experiences ranging from experimentation to real-world problem solving. Students say they are motivated by solving real-world problems. They often express a preference for *doing* rather than *listening*. At the same time, most educators consider learning-by-doing the most effective way to learn. Thanks to the emergence of a new set of technological tools, we can offer students a more authentic learning experience based on experimentation and action. With the help of the Internet and a variety of communication, visualization, and simulation technologies, students of all ages can begin to reconstruct the past, observe phenomena using technologies, and make valuable connections in real time around the world. With access to online research communities, learners are able to gain a deeper sense of a discipline as a special “culture” shaped by specific ways of seeing and interpreting the world.

The Board, in its proactive wisdom, understands the importance of preparing the students of the Northwest Catholic District School Board for the future and the importance of authentic learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to guide students and staff in that direction. The Board has committed to a three year Strategic Implementation Plan of placing SMART technology in every classroom of all schools of the Board. After two years in the implementation process, 75% of all classrooms are equipped with SMART technology and for the 2011-2012 school year, all classrooms of the Board will have SMART technology, which will move students and staff in the direction of Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. To be competitive in a global job market, today's students must become comfortable with the complexities of ill-defined real-world problems. The greater their exposure to authentic disciplinary communities, the better prepared they will be “to deal with ambiguity” and put into practice the kind of “higher order analysis and complex communication” required of them as professionals. Authentic learning may be more important than ever in a rapidly changing world, where the half-life of information is short and individuals can expect to progress through multiple careers. Expert thinking and complex communication will differentiate those with career-transcending skills from those who have little opportunity for advancement. The Board wants every child to reach their God given potential.

## Setting the Programming Direction for the Board for the 2011-2013 School Years:

1. Leading student achievement and data means setting the philosophy so that everyone understands that:

- *There are many ways of being intelligent.*
- *Learning is basic and natural to people.*
- *Everyone has the capacity to learn.*
- *People learn at different rates and in different ways.*
- *People learn that which has meaning for them.*
- *Prerequisite learning is the single largest determinant of whether students learn what they are being taught.*
- *Successful learning enhances attitude and motivation.*
- *Applying learning increases motivation and is critical to it's utilization and retention.*



2. Leading student achievement and data means setting the philosophy so that everyone understands that:

- *Identifying what we want to get.*
- *Organizing to get what we want.*
- *Measuring and reporting our results.*
- *Using the results to continuously improve the process of how we do things.*

3. Building capacity for improvement in the future means that as a system we believe in:

- *Planning that begins with a "Needs Assessment" inevitably leads to "Inside the Box" tinkering and change.*
- *Planning that begins with a "Future-Focus" creates a New Vision based on the world our students will face AFTER they finish school.*

4. Building capacity for improvement in the system means, working with the community by building communities of which emerge authentic relationships, an appreciation for organizational stewardship, a concern for justice and respect, understanding the intrinsic worth of people, and value the building of empowering relationships and communities within the organization in the following manner:

- **Shared values and vision**
- **Collective learning and application**
- **Supportive and shared leadership**
- **Supportive conditions**
- **Shared personal practice**

## Actions



- Our main academic goal for the entire system and the entire student body is to move all students to the provincial standard of level 3 or 75% working in a system imbued and based on Gospel values and in partnership with home, Church and community.

- As the Board and the system moves forward in the Strategic Direction for the 2011-2012 school year, areas of focus will continue to work on the strategy of **differentiation** to meet the needs of all of the

students in the classroom during all parts of a lesson and the **use of data** in the **CLIP** process to assist teachers in moving students forward.

- The System Direction for Program has been set to implement the strategic direction and focus on **School Effectiveness Planning** with all staff. The target will be to work towards continuous school improvement and continued high student achievement via Ministry of Education directives. (All staff - August 2011-June 2013)
- **Specific and Measurable Goals** have been set for all schools to target in all programming areas, as an area of academic focus through the development of the **Board Improvement Plan**. The School Effectiveness Framework Review, will help staff to celebrate student achievement successes and target goals for specific areas of focused instruction for this year in the School Improvement Plans.

## System Priorities:

### Catholicity

1. 100% of teaching staff will receive Professional Development in Catholicity;

- Teachers and support staff will participate in the Faith Development Day.
- New Teachers will participate in a Catholicity Workshop (NTIP).
- DI: Differentiated Instruction will be used in Christian Living as a means to enhance teacher practice and improve student achievement.
- OECTA Religious Education Parts I, II, III are being offered on-line.
- Catholicity Coordinator will provide resource materials for liturgical seasons for personal faith development of staff.
- Provide Catholicity component for leadership development and all program initiatives/staff development activities.



2. Further develop Teaching Catholic Values through Character Education initiative;

- Schools will continue to use the Catholic Values and Themes Calendar.
- Catholicity Coordinator will supplement resources binder with printed and online materials.
- Principals and teachers will use the Catholic Values Calendar to guide activities, curriculum decisions, and prayers and provide thematic focus for each month within the school.
- Increase Students involvement through student leadership and engagement.



3. To ensure an excellent Catholic Education system by instilling faith throughout all curriculum disciplines;

- Update the Grade 8 Fully Alive resources in all schools.
- Provide Catholic resources and support materials for liturgical seasons.
- Integrate Catholic Graduate Expectations into all curriculum areas.
- Provide information on Church teachings and current events.
- Provide Catholic Graduate Expectation booklets to new teachers.
- Provide Catholic perspective and support for all discipline areas as requested by program leaders.
- Support teachers.

4. To ensure opportunity for religious education for our secondary school students;

- Provide the Grade Ten religious education course, HRE20, Christ and Culture, to secondary school students in our communities.
- Possibility of adding eLearning – Religious Education for Grade 8 and Grade 9 students.

5. To ensure our Board support of provincial organizations in promoting Catholic Education.

- Support key provincial organizers. i.e.: Friends & Advocates for Catholic Education, ICE, OCSTA, etc.
- Provide liaison between Catholic organizations and the Board.

### School Effectiveness



1. 100 % of teachers will participate in 2 cycles of the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway Inquiry during the 2011-2012 school year.
2. 50 % of the Board's elementary schools will participate in the District Review Process during the 2011-2012 school year.
3. 100 % of the Board's elementary schools will develop a School Improvement Team.

## Information Technology

1. Develop and implement electronic forms for staff;
  - Create electronic forms for Acceptable Use of Computers for NCDSB Staff
2. Increase online presence of TNCD SB and increase staff communication via intranet and school websites;
  - Train staff on how to post on the Intranet
  - Introduce schoolhouse to staff and parents
3. 100% of classrooms will have SMART Boards in the 2011-2012 school year;
  - Install SMART Boards and laptops in each classroom
  - Training on SMART Boards and document cameras
4. Replace old Desktops and Laptops at St. Michael's, Our Lady of the Way and St. Joseph's Schools;
  - Physically deploy new equipment
  - Dispose of legacy equipment in an environmentally friendly way
5. Phone system and Intercom upgrades;
  - Shadow install of new phone systems in each school and board office
  - Shadow install of new intercom system to replace the current intercom at St. Michael's School.
  - Configure network for VoIP
6. Migration of Physical Servers to Virtual Servers;
  - Migrate physical servers to virtual servers
  - Fort Frances Board Office will be the first to run virtual servers followed by Dryden Board Office and then the schools
7. Server backups and disaster recovery;
  - Purchase, install and configure network attached storage to do disk to disk backups
8. Wide area network upgrades;
  - Install and test Fiber connection between St. Francis School, St. Michael's School and Fort Frances Board Office
  - Approach vendors for various WAN options to Sacred Heart School
9. New wireless system;
  - Installation and testing of Ruckus Wireless



10. Student Information System updates;

- Updates to our current Student Information System – Trillium
- Updates will be run on a test server first

11. Blended Learning;

- Installation and testing of Ruckus Wireless
- Configure 5 netbooks for each participating class

12. Server room and network closet maintenance;

- Clean server rooms
- Purchase new patch cables for all networking closets and server rooms.
- Install and organize all cables in the networking closets.

13. Update and migration of current Network Operating System from Novell to Microsoft

- Replace old technology with updated standard
- Configure servers
- Install and organize folder and files with secure access

