

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of all the staff of St. Kateri Catholic, I would like to welcome everyone back to school and extend a special welcome to all the new families.

Our dedicated staff works closely together to create a sense of family within our school community. We are a school dedicated to making decisions based on what is best for the students we serve. As a staff, we encourage each student to seek excellence; in schoolwork, behavior, sports and in relationships with one another.

We have great students at our school. God has given each of you many talents and gifts. Jesus calls us to use our gifts in service to one another. As we move through the school year together, remember that Jesus also calls us to care for and love one another, let us model this every day.

Students, use this agenda to help keep you organized and focused. Please make sure to use it daily.

Parents, we invite you to become an active member of our school community. It is only with the support and dedication of many people that St. Kateri can be the wonderful place to learn and grow that it is. Establishing a good relationship between home and school will also help you work with your child and challenge them to reach their maximum potential.

May God bless you, guide you and give you wisdom and strength during this school year.

Yours in Christ,
Mr. Matheson

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Kateri is a spiritual, empowering and compassionate community that nurtures engaged lifelong learners, responsible citizens and innovative thinkers.

STUDENT CONDUCT

St. Kateri Catholic School operates on the philosophy that all students have the right to learn and grow in self-discipline. To do so, each student must be in a school climate that is satisfying and productive, without disruptive

behaviour by any student infringing upon the rights of others.

The home and the school share the responsibility for teaching appropriate and acceptable behaviours. At St. Kateri students are expected to follow reasonable rules that are established for the benefit of the entire student body. They must recognize any behaviour that disrupts or distracts from the educational climate of the school is unacceptable. Students are bound to comply with Section 7 of the Alberta School Act which states the responsibilities of the student.

A student shall conduct him/herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- a) be diligent in pursuing his/her studies
- b) attend school regularly and punctually
- c) co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education & other services
- d) comply with the rules of the school
- e) respect the rights of others

Failure to comply with expectations will result in logical consequences. Parents will be expected to provide support and assistance in helping students change the behaviour to reach acceptable standards. However, suspension and expulsion of students may be a consequence for behaviours.

According to the School Act Section 19:

- A student may be suspended or expelled
- a) if in the opinion of the teacher, the principal or the Board, as the case may be, the conduct of the student does not comply with section 7 or
 - b) for any other reason the teacher, the principal, the vice-principal or the Board, as the case may be, considers appropriate.

A teacher may suspend a student from one class period. A principal and/or vice-principal may suspend a student from:

- a) one or more class periods
- b) one or more course or school programs
- c) school or d) riding in a school bus

ABSENCES/LATES

Students are expected to attend ALL their classes. As per the School Act, the following are acceptable reasons for being absent from class:

1. Illness

2. Compassionate/Celebration related to immediate family e.g. funeral/wedding etc.
3. Medically related reasons e.g. dentist, doctor appointments, when such a visit cannot be made outside school hours.
4. School representative at an outside school event.
5. Individual e.g. Music Festival or community event with reasonable notice to and prior approval of the Principal.

Homework requests can be made through the office or classroom teacher before 8:30 a.m.

Parents are asked to contact the school when students will be absent or late for any reason.



BUSSING

For specific bus routes and times, please call First Student @ 780-532-3545. Students must live over 2.4 km from the school to qualify for a bus pass. Westpointe, O'Brien and Pinnacle students automatically qualify for a bus pass due to safety issues crossing Highway 40. Application forms for bus passes are distributed the first week of school.

CELL PHONE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY

We recognize that cell phones have become a common tool for communication. However, they have also become a major distraction to the learning environment.

St. Kateri Catholic School has a **NO CELL PHONE POLICY**.

If your child is caught with a cell phone during school hours the cell phone will be confiscated and the parent/guardian will be called and will be required to come to the school office themselves to retrieve the cell phone.

COLD WEATHER POLICY

It is School Board Policy that all schools will remain open during all scheduled instructional days, regardless of temperature. Students will

have recess outside unless it is raining or colder than -25 degrees, including the wind chill factor. **Please ensure adequate clothing is provided for your children.** Only during extreme cold or adverse weather conditions will students be allowed in early or be kept in during recess or noon breaks. Supervision begins at 8:22am.

DAILY PRAYERS / RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS



The school day at St. Kateri Catholic School begins with staff and student prayer. The school holds regular school celebrations and offers the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent and Advent. All parents are welcome to attend school celebrations and to participate in Religion classes.

DRESS CODE

Dress in accordance with the following guidelines. Good social judgement includes knowing what is appropriate to wear, i.e. clean, neat, modest clothing free of offensive language. Spaghetti straps and bare midriffs are not acceptable. Straps on tank tops must be two-finger width. Shorts and skirts must be mid-thigh. No underwear should be showing. Hats are allowed outside the school only. Parents, please be aware of what your child is wearing before they leave home. We will ask a student to change or cover-up inappropriate clothing.

DISTRICT THEME

"Connect with something Bigger"

DIVERSITY CLUBS

Alberta's Education Act Sections 45 and 16, requires that if a student or students can request that a staff member employed by the Board can ask for a voluntary student organization to be established. The purpose of the organization is to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. The student(s) may select a respectful and inclusive name for the organization or activity,

including the name “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance”, after consulting with the Principal.

The Principal shall immediately inform the Superintendent of Schools and the Minister if no staff member is available to serve as a staff liaison referred to in 16.1(1), and if so informed, the Minister shall appoint a responsible adult to work with the requesting students in organizing the activity or to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation, of the student organization at the school. The principal is responsible for ensuring that notification, if any, respecting a voluntary student organization or an activity referred to in 16.1 (1) is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or the holding of the activity.

It is everyone's responsibility to view individuals are people who are loved for and cared for and who were created in the image and likeness of God.

HOMework

In keeping with the goals of secondary education, homework is seen as a necessary extension of class work. It is essential for the maturing student to develop an ability to work independently as it will prepare the student for school success, future careers, and life goals.

The primary purpose of homework is to reinforce concepts learned in school realizing that:

1. Learning is not restricted to the classroom.
2. Students struggling with some concepts may require more enforcement at this time.
3. Students struggling with many concepts may find an imposing extension of their school day at home through extensive homework to be counterproductive.
4. The more rigorous the academic program aspired to, the more reinforcement activity required to maintain high standards of achievement.

Parents are asked to assist the school in this respect by providing time and the opportunity for their children to study at home whether homework has been formally assigned or not. All teachers will outline their homework expectations to students and parents during the first four weeks of classes.

INTERNET POLICY



We are pleased to offer students of the Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools access to the district computer network for electronic mail and the Internet. To gain access to email and the internet, all students will be given a permission form at the beginning of each year for parents to sign and return to the teacher.

LOST & FOUND

There is a general lost & found box in the main hallway. Lost and found items are generally given in to the Office first. Items left unclaimed will be donated to charity.

LUNCH HOUR POLICY

St. Kateri is a closed campus school. Students are **not** permitted to leave the school grounds. **Only those students that live in the vicinity of the school will be permitted** (with parental consent) to leave the school grounds during lunch hour.

Students staying at school for lunch must eat in their classrooms. Eating is not permitted in the Gym, Library, or outside on St. Kateri property. Students are expected to behave in a respectable manner during lunch time. If students choose not to follow our lunch rules, students will receive warning letters. After the third warning letter the child will not be allowed to stay at the school for lunch for a period of five days and a parent or guardian will have to pick the child up for lunch.

During lunch hour recess, students are to go outside to their respective areas. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at this time. The school also organizes intramurals at noon-hour intermittently throughout the school year.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters go out at the beginning of every month via e-mail.

PROGRESS REPORTS

In an effort to keep parents informed of student progress and to provide parents with ample opportunities to support their children, teachers will provide students/parents with preliminary progress reports. As an addition to Report Cards, Parent-Teacher interviews, and personal contact home made by the teacher, these reports are issued at the mid-point of each of the Reporting Periods to ensure that parents are informed of student progress prior to Report Cards.

***Subject teachers are not limited to one progress report per reporting period and may use them at any time to address those students who show signs of experiencing difficulties in specific areas.**

SCHOOL PROPERTY

St. Kateri Catholic School is a reflection of its students. The appearance of the school and school grounds depends upon the students. Please respect school property and treat it as your own. Students who deliberately damage school property will be charged for such damages. Please note that parents are ultimately held responsible for damage caused by their own children.

The Alberta School Act Section II states:

If property of the Board is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by the intentional or negligent act

- a) of 1 student, the student and his/her parent are jointly and severally liable to the Board in respect of the act of the student, or
- b) of 2 or more students acting together, the students and their parents are jointly and severally liable to the Board in respect of the act of the students.

SEARCH OF SCHOOL LOCKERS

The School and School District are responsible for maintaining an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. To that end, the school personnel adopt a zero tolerance policy toward weapons, alcohol, and illicit drugs at St. Kateri Catholic School. Student lockers are the property of the School District and may be searched on a regular basis without warning. Any evidence gathered as a result of a search could be used by the school administration for discipline, or by the RCMP for criminal charges.

SICKNESS, MEDICATION OR INJURY

Students who find it necessary to leave school because of illness, a doctor's appointment, or other excusable reason are required to report to the office, giving reason and expected time back.

If you are not feeling well during school hours, the school secretary must be notified and then arrangements will be made to notify parents or to arrange for transportation home.

School Board policy states that non-prescription medication (Aspirin, Tylenol, and similar drugs) will only be administered on an "as needed" basis, and where the parent/guardian has given written permission to the school to do so and has supplied the medication.

In the case of any injury sustained during school hours or at a noon supervised activity, a member of the staff will accompany the student to the Hospital Emergency Department if such action is deemed necessary. A parent will be contacted, if possible. All injuries must be reported to the teacher in charge.

SMOKING/DRUGS/ALCOHOL

Smoking under the age of 18 is illegal in Alberta. The School Board Policy #716 states that no one is permitted to smoke in any buildings owned by the School District. Students smoking in or around the school will be detained, possibly charged, and face disciplinary action.

The school and the School Board will not condone the use of alcohol or drugs at school or at any school function. In accordance with School Board policy, any students found to be in the possession of or under the influence of drugs/alcohol will face disciplinary action. When deemed necessary the School Board also reserves the right to conduct searches of lockers or property within the school premises.

STUDENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES

SCHOOL COMMUNITY TEAM

If you, or someone you know, is having difficulty with family relationships, school problems, or

parenting problems, TEAM is willing to assist. The Team group is an inter-agency group that meets in each school at least once a month to help parents and students who are in need of support from helping agencies. The focus is on helping entire families cope with difficult situations in an effective manner. Phone the school and ask the Principal to book a time with the Team whenever it is convenient for you. The service is free and confidential.

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES STUDENT LIAISON WORKER

Student or parents seeking assistance with school or personal problems are asked to contact the Office to make an appointment with the Student Liaison Worker.

STUDENT HEALTH PROGRAM

The Student Health Program is a partnership between several provincial government departments, the school districts, with the Peace County Health Region and community development partners. The program focuses on students whose health needs affect their ability to participate and learn in school.

Students with special health needs shall have access to the following health services:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Speech and Language Pathology
- Mental Health

LEARNING COMMONS

Reading is one of the skills of language and the reading program is an integrated part of the language arts curriculum. We encourage students to borrow books from the school library for pleasure, reading and research. LOST or DAMAGED BOOKS or other borrowed materials are charged to the responsible student's family at the current replacement cost (or estimate). We extend a special invitation to our parents to visit our Learning Commons.

ST. KATERI, LILY OF THE MOHAWKS



Kateri Tekakwitha was born in a Mohawk Village in Auriesville, New York, in 1665. When she was 4 years old, small pox spread through the Mohawk Nation.

Kateri was the only member of her family to survive.

At the age of 10, Kateri first learned of Jesus from Jesuit missionaries visiting her village. When she was 19, she asked to be baptized. Her religion was put to many tests by the non-Christian villagers, but she never grew weak in her faith. The priests asked her to go to a Christian village in Canada on the St. Lawrence River.

Kateri became well liked in her new village because of her kindness and her cheerful willingness to help look after the children and to aid the sick. After suffering for almost a year, she became very sick and died on April 17, 1680 at the age of 24 years.

She was declared "Blessed" on June 22, 1980 by Pope John Paul II. On October 21, 2012 the official canonization took place, where Kateri was declared a Saint.

TELEPHONE USE

Should students require the use of a telephone during instructional hours they may ask their classroom teacher to use a classroom telephone, or they may also ask to use a telephone in the office.

TRANSPORTATION

Students **must** wear bike helmets when riding bikes, skateboards, scooters and roller blades to school. **Healies are not allowed at school.**

CATHOLIC PRAYERS

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

The Sign of the Cross is a very short prayer. It shows our faith in the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – and it shows we understand that Jesus died on the cross to save us. (Say before and after each prayer)

In the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy Catholic Church,
 The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name;
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
 Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
 Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now until the hour of our death. Amen

2018-2019
SCHOOL CALENDAR

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| Sept. 4 | First Day of School |
| Sept. 28 | PD Day (No School) |
| Oct. 8 | Thanksgiving Day (School Closed) |
| Oct. 19 | PD Day (No School) |
| Nov. 12 | Day off in lieu of PTI's |
| Nov. 23 | PD Day (No School) |
| Dec. 22-Jan 6 Christmas Break (School Closed) | |
| Jan. 7 | Classes Resume |
| Jan 18 | District Faith Day (No School) |
| Feb. 8 | PD Day (No School) |
| Feb. 18 | Family Day (School Closed) |
| Mar. 7 & 8 | Teacher Convention (No School) |
| Mar. 23-30 | Spring Break |
| Apr. 1 | Classes Resume |
| Apr. 12 | PD Day (No School) |
| Apr. 19 | Good Friday (School Closed) |
| Apr. 22 | Day off in lieu of PTI's |
| May. 10 | PD Day (No School) |
| May. 20 | Victoria Day (No School) |
| June 7 | PD Day (No School) |
| June 27 | Last Day for Students |
| June 28 | Last day for Staff |