

Board-wide Action

Catholic Values and Virtues ...

About the program ...

Board-wide actions that embed character in Catholic values and system plans have been the catalyst for character development at the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. The actions include creating materials (like school year calendars and posters) which identify the values, displaying Catholic values crosses in every school, school community celebrations at each of the cross installations and coordinating international trips to enable students to respond to global needs. Information about these values, character development and system plans is shared on board and school websites. These values are incorporated into annual themes and reflected in all publications such as the [Our Catholic Values](#) booklet, and in prayers and celebrations, both system-wide and locally in each school. The values booklet is aligned with the [Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#) and is being embedded in the curriculum.



Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students reflect and think critically about the role the Catholic values play in their daily lives, especially as they relate to community involvement, Catholic social teaching and social justice initiatives.
- Students are encouraged to become involved in community projects as well as international initiatives. Following service trips to countries such as Kenya and Peru, students bring their learning back to their own school communities as well as to other schools within the board.
- The board's Central Parent Committee is aware and engaged as are local school parent councils – this is reflected in comments parents make on board DVDs created to reflect upon the board's identity as an organization.
- Principals, vice-principals, our designated faith ambassadors (two in every school) and other staff have embraced the Catholic values initiative and demonstrate them on a daily basis in their schools.

“Faith, hope, love, family, compassion, service, truth, justice and forgiveness are the values that we have articulated to strengthen our Catholic identity[...] These values give our school communities – students, families and staff – the opportunity to clearly express our faith as we live these values in our daily lives.”

– *Our Catholic Values*

To find out more, contact ...

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB
46 Alliance Boulevard
Barrie, ON L4M 5K3

Contact: Diane Legg (Director of Communications & Public Affairs)
Phone: (705) 722-3555 x251
Email: dlegg@smcdsb.on.ca

Board website: <http://www.smcdsb.on.ca>