

Catholic Values and Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE)

Board website: www.smcdsb.on.ca

About the project ...

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board's character development goal was to ensure that their Catholic values were being taught consistently across the system and that they were also visible to the broader community. To achieve this goal, the board created video and written documents that support the Catholic values initiative that develops student character and demonstrates the board's faith and character values to students, staff and the wider community. The resources, including the *Come Grow with Us* video, show the alignment of the board's nine Catholic values with the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. The accompanying written guide to the video was developed for teachers to explain how the values and graduate expectations are connected and how to embed these values into classroom teaching. These resources were paired with a calendar that went home to all families, detailing the nine Catholic values, to increase community understanding and engagement in students' values education. The video included segments on how the board's Catholic values promote a culture of safety, on environmental programs that were taking place throughout the board, on the board's philosophy of inclusion and on the board's numerous student success strategies.

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- The resources develop attitudes and values founded on Catholic social teachings and promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good.
- Teachers now have access to resources that embed the Catholic values and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations into all subject areas and grades.
- The video helps students understand how the yearly value theme fits into bigger-picture learning about Catholic values and the community. In addition, the video makes explicit connections between Catholic values and the pathway to graduation, helping students understand and engage in their education and set goals for themselves in their faith and character development.
- The resources encourage the use and integration of the Catholic faith tradition across the curriculum, including in the critical analysis of the Arts, media, technology and information systems.

Lessons learned for moving forward ...

- It is important to have resources that respect faith traditions, world religions and the life journeys of all people of good will.
- The integration of faith with life in the resources supports students' understanding of the relevance of the Catholic values in their daily lives.
- Through the board yearly themes, all students practice and witness Catholic social teachings by promoting equality, democracy and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society.