

SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Parents,

Greetings! Let me introduce myself. My name is Fr. Mark McGee and I am the Pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church (210 Haddow Close). Your school falls within my parish boundaries, and so I have a Pastoral responsibility for your school.

The heart and soul of Catholic education is Jesus Christ who came that we might have life to the full. In Catholic education, we have an opportunity to share with young people values that include but go beyond merely the marketplace, media, culture and consumerism. The different values that become part of our education system focus on an appreciation of justice, peace, the common good, concern for others, love of God and neighbour, fairness and civility. In our educational model, we teach to the whole child; and enable the teachings of Jesus Christ, as relayed to us in the Gospels, and through the traditions of our church, to be at the forefront of every educational endeavor. In this way, FAITH “permeates” the total learning experience.

To educate young people in the context of the Gospel, a distinct educational environment is nourished, wherein Christ is not only WELCOMED but is EXPECTED to be a part of the school ethos. Catholic education strives to provide a learning environment that supports the full flourishing and development of the spiritual, moral, physical, social and intellectual dimensions of our children. The collaborative partnership forged between your school, the church and your family forms a powerful alliance meant to support the integrated growth of your children. Far from an attempt to segregate individuals from the wider community, a vibrant Catholic educational system seeks to prepare young people for the benefit and full engagement of society as well-rounded, well-formed people. The tripod of mutual support that runs between school-church-family helps to accomplish this desirable outcome for our young people at every step of the way.

Any person of faith, regardless of church affiliation, should feel comfortable and welcome in our Catholic Schools. As the Pastor of the local parish, St. Thomas More, I want to thank and congratulate you for deciding to send your child to one of our schools! I want to assure you of my ongoing support of the schools within my parish boundaries. To that end, we also have dedicated staff and three Deacons available to the schools for added support. If there is any way St. Thomas More can support your family please do not hesitate to ask. If you are seeking specific information about Sacramental Preparation (*Baptism, 1st Confession, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation, Sacramental Marriage, etc.*), we would be happy to help you with that. Please call the parish directly at (780) 434-6313 with your concerns. In addition, I want to extend a heartfelt invitation to any family members and parents able to join us at any of the school celebrations happening at St. Thomas More. I always enjoy having you with us, and I think the children love it when you are there!

In conclusion, may you and your children have a very happy, successful and fulfilling school year! Let us keep each other, our teachers, administrators, trustees and support staff, and our precious children always in our prayers.

God Bless!

Fr. Mark McGee
Pastor, St. Thomas More Catholic Church