



The Five Marks of the Catholic School Identity

Catholic School Review

St. Martin's
2022 – 2023

Introduction

The EICS Education Assurance process includes an in-depth review and support program for every school on a four-year cycle. Using the "Marks of an Excellent Catholic School" document as a guide, the Catholic School Review process provides us with detailed perspectives and data that allows for celebration of what is systematic and effective for the school community while providing recommendations for improvement over a four year cycle.

Through the perspective of the principles of the "Five Marks of an Excellent Catholic School", the purpose of this process is to gather information to assist the school community in impacting the faith life and learning of the students and staff.

Review Outcomes:

1. To celebrate the successes and strengths of the school.
2. To enhance capacity in the school and promote a culture of excellence in Catholic education.
3. To reinforce that Catholic Education is our number one responsibility.
4. To impact the faith life of students and student learning.

"The formation of students and the achieving of our goal to have students come to know, love, and serve the Lord can only be achieved in a school culture which is fully integrated and Christ-centered. "

Guiding Documents

[The Marks of a Catholic Leader](#)

[Leadership Quality Standard](#)

[Catholic Leadership Quality Standard](#)

Support Documents:

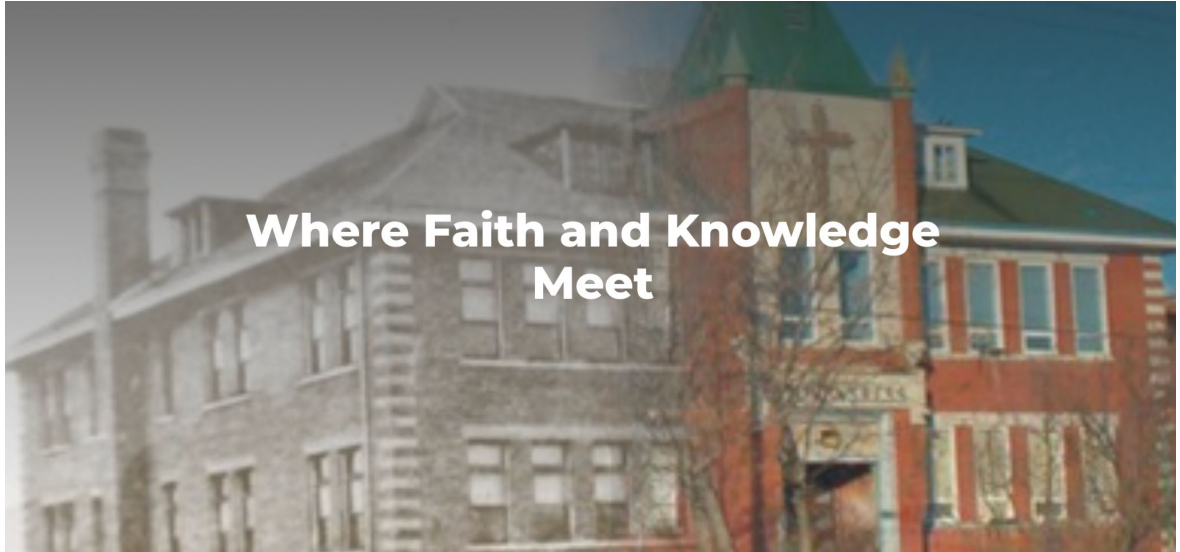
[Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader](#)

[Growing Forward 2014 Symposium Final Report](#)

[The Catholic School Identity Assessment Tool: Companion Guide](#)



School Overview



United in Christ, Growing Together, we are St. Martin's School

St. Martin's Catholic School resides within the family of Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) and is part of Alberta's publicly-funded education system. Located in Vegreville, St. Martin's offers quality Catholic education for students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6. The staff is comprised of 1 principal, Joe Kucy, 1 assistant principal, Melanie Sorochan, 13 teachers and 9 support staff.

Website: <https://stmn.eics.ab.ca/>

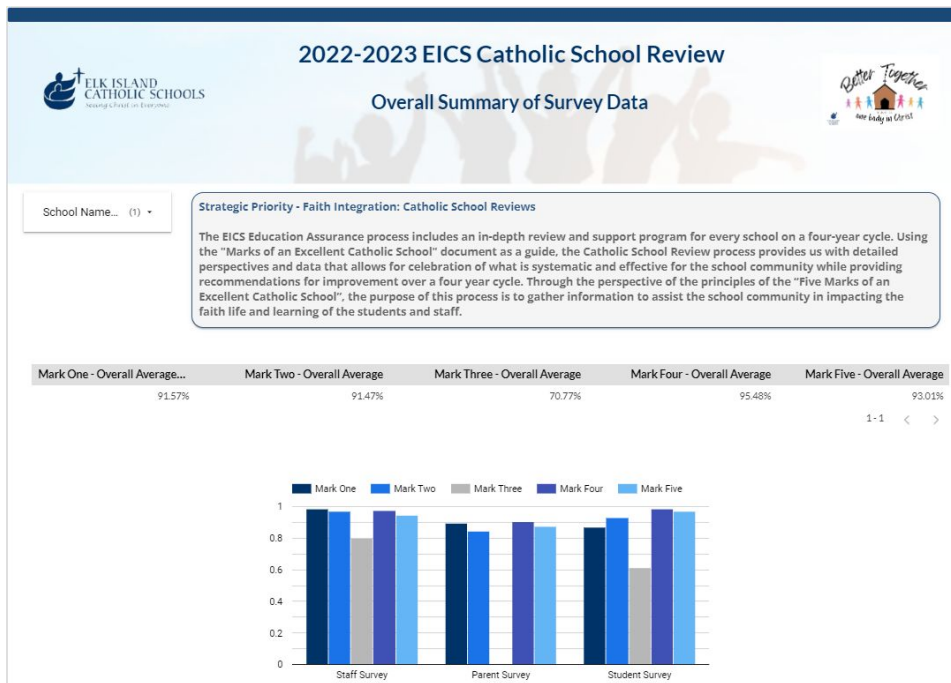
Newsletter: <https://stmn.eics.ab.ca/home/news/post/saints-scoop>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/stmartinscatholicschool>

<https://twitter.com/StMartinsEICS>



Catholic School Review Dashboard



[Link to Parents, Staff and Students Survey Results](#)

115 surveys completed

Staff: 15

Students: 65

Parents: 35

Interviews conducted with:

Staff and Students

Focus groups conducted with students in grades 4-6

Conversation with Father Lee

Unable to reach Father Holoway



Mark One: Grounded in a Christian Anthropology

Standard One: An excellent Catholic school reflects the Church's mission to uphold the inherent dignity of humanity created in God's image and likeness with an eternal destiny.

*Founded in a Catholic Christian anthropology, the division/school's mission statement is clearly distinguishable from the mission statements of other public, independent, or charter schools. This is demonstrated by:

- a clear commitment to its Catholic identity with specific language referencing Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church
- a statement regarding the dignity and worth of all members of the Catholic school community as children of God

*The mission statement is concise and known by staff, students, and parents of the division/school community. This is demonstrated by:

- its display in prominent areas of the school facility and is reviewed regularly and updated as necessary
- Frequent communication to the broader community through social media, in newsletters and reports

*The mission statement is understood by the staff, students, and parents of the division/school community. This is demonstrated by:

- stating the school's core mission and/or mission statement
- identifying all people as created in the image and likeness of God
- affirming that, as a child of God, each person is treated with dignity imitating Jesus in relationships and actions

*All policies, administrative procedures, and school-based guidelines, such as progressive discipline, are grounded in the division/school's mission statement. This is demonstrated by:

- safe and caring guidelines and procedures
- a welcoming environment for parents and visitors (e.g., reception by first point of contact in the school/worksite, public messages/displays and events, volunteer orientations, etc.)

Commendations:

- Overall, 91.57% of parents, staff and students agree that the school reflects the Church's mission.
- Overall, 97% parents, staff and students agree that students are cared for by administrators and staff at the school.
- 100% of staff and parents agree that the staff create a welcoming environment for all visitors.
- 100% of staff agree that the school environment is a safe and welcoming place for staff.
- Staff strive to follow the example of Christ through their actions and interactions
 - Staff: 100 %
 - Parents: 91.43%
- Staff commented:
 - *I actually really enjoy how admin include us in meaningful conversations. Dialogue is very open. They seek our input and respond quickly to things as well. We feel heard. If staff has an idea, we are encouraged to share, discuss and implement.*
- Staff shared a true sense of a caring and welcoming environment.
- Students repeatedly shared how welcome and cared for they are.
 - *"We're all friendly to each other, We learn all about what Jesus did and love God. Some other schools don't talk about God. We are told to walk in Jesus' footsteps."*
- Parents commented on the friendly welcoming atmosphere of the school and appreciated how everybody knows each other.

Areas of Growth:

- Revisit and display prominently the school mission statement in the school. Consider rewording in succinct student friendly language and embedding the mission statement in student assemblies and displaying at the front entrance.
- Integrate more prominently the School patron saint – St. Martin – morning prayer, displayed in school.

Mark One Artifacts

School motto

United in Christ, Growing Together, we are St. Martin's School

School mission statement

We are a Catholic community committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values, where students' gifts and talents are celebrated and nurtured through lifelong spiritual and personal experiences.

St. Martin's Catholic School

Student Handbook
2022- 2023



THIS AGENDA BELONGS TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE : _____

GRADE: _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____



[Link to Student Handbook](#)

Mark Two: Imbued with a Catholic Worldview

Standard Two: An excellent Catholic school inspires staff and students to embrace a Catholic worldview, which is made explicit through physical spaces, liturgical celebrations, and prayer life.

*The division/school's Catholic identity is evident in the art and architecture of the school/worksite interior and exterior. This is demonstrated by:

- public signs and bulletin boards
- chapel/prayer spaces
- online presence
- hallways, classrooms, offices, learning commons, cafeteria, gymnasium, and auditorium

*The division/school has a chapel or other dedicated space for community prayer that is used by the school/worksite community for the purpose of prayer and worship.

*Every classroom has a prominent, visible prayer space with at least the following standard items: crucifix/cross, candle(s), Bible, and cloth in the colour of the liturgical season.

*Staff and students have numerous opportunities to pray every day at school, such as at the beginning and end of day, grace before snacks/meals, at the start of class, in spontaneous prayer etc.

*The school community gathers regularly for liturgical celebrations and has multiple opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist, preferably celebrated in the local parish (as local circumstances allow).

*The school collaborates with the local parish to support the immediate preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation.

*Service projects reflect and articulate Catholic teaching on social justice and charity.

*All students and staff have opportunities for faith-based retreats, experiences and/or encounters at least once during the school year.

*School based clubs, teams, and activities are imbued with a Catholic worldview and promote the teachings of the Catholic Church. (Examples: team names, resources chosen, drama productions, music, etc.)

Commendations:

- Overall 91.5% of parents, staff and students agree that the school embraces the physical signs of a Catholic school.
- Overall 100% agree that the school catholic identity is evident with visible signs.
- Overall 91% of parents, staff and students agree that the chapel is frequently visited by students with their class.
- Classrooms have visible prayer space and tables
 - Staff: 100%
 - Students: 98.5%
- Interviews with staff and students were overwhelmingly unanimous regarding the strong prayer life of the school. Prayer is a rich and intentional part of every day and throughout the day.
- Students commented on the prayer group that gathers in the chapel every week as well as the Play and Pray with Jesus.
 - *Student commented, "I follow Jesus. If someone is hurt or if they don't have someone to play with you ask them. Include everyone. Ask for forgiveness for our mistakes."*
- Every prayer table has a Jesus stuffy that was introduced through activities and prayer that was engaging and meaningful.
 - *"We turn off the lights and have a Jesus statue that lights up on the prayer table we use that everyday. After the schoolwide prayer we do our intentions at the pray table to begin the class."*
- Parents commented on being invited to the Monday morning prayer assemblies and their impact on the faith life of their children.

Areas of Growth:

- 82% agree with opportunities for faith based retreats for students; specifically 74% students. With such a strong school prayer life, we encourage staff to embed student faith retreats to experience a deeper faith experience.
- Staff and student participation in parish life and ministry through regular attendance at mass is encouraged.
- Use of the close proximity of the church to the school should be taken advantage of. Classes can participate in daily mass throughout the year, not just school based seasonal attendance.

Mark Two Artifacts

School Celebrations

St. Martin's of Tours Church

October 5 – New School Year Mass
October 6 – Grade 4 Bible Blessing
December 16 – Advent Mass
February 22 – Ash Wednesday
April 3–6 tbd – Easter
June 21 – Grade 6 Farewell Mass and Year end

School Service Projects

September 22 – Terry Fox Run & Fundraising
November 4 – Remembrance Day – Poppies and Legion Poster Contest
December 9 – Christmas Bureau Toys Collection for Vegreville
December 15 – Vegreville Food Bank Collection and Delivery
December 20 – Collection of Socks and Toques for Vegreville
February 14 – Jump Rope for Heart & Fundraising
March 23 – Sunflowers for Ukrainian Lenten Project

Retreats:

Admin Retreat at Pigeon Lake
First Year Teacher Retreat



Mark Three: Animated by a Faith Infused Curriculum

Standard Three: An excellent Catholic school delivers an academic curriculum that integrates the Catholic faith within the learner outcomes and teaching strategies.

*The delivery of curriculum reflects the Catholic social teachings, including: Dignity of the Human Person Stewardship of Creation Common Good Participation Solidarity Rights and Responsibilities Preferential Option for the Poor Economic Justice Subsidiarity and Role of Government Peace

*The delivery of curriculum nurtures and supports the spiritual, moral, and ethical life of the student, either explicitly or implicitly, through the Catholic lens. This is demonstrated by:

- identifying Catholic content in resources to make informed choices about instruction
- an awareness of where to access approved Catholic resources, using division supports as available
- knowing how to respond to discussions on sensitive topics

*The delivery of curriculum is faith-infused in such a way that could not be duplicated in a public school.

*Teachers are knowledgeable of Church teaching, apply it to the subject areas in which they teach, and actively seek connections between the subject matter and the teachings of the Church. This is demonstrated by:

- instruction that reflects the Catholic understanding of truth and the harmony between faith and reason.
- embedding Catholic social teaching into the content

*Teachers regularly and consistently incorporate Christian values and Church teaching into planning of instruction. This is demonstrated by:

- respect for the dignity of all students, parents, and community members (e.g., welcoming environment, inclusion of all, discipline processes)
- infusion of the Christian virtues, love of God and neighbour (e.g., commandment of love, theological and cardinal virtues, gifts of Holy Spirit)
- application of social and moral teachings (e.g., Catholic social teachings, human sexuality, and family life)

*As Religious Education/Studies are core subjects, teacher assignment, learner outcomes, delivery of instruction, and instructional minutes/credit allotments are subject to the same professional requirements and rigour as all core subjects (i.e., commensurate to other humanities).

*Time is allocated for teachers to collaborate on a regular basis to integrate and permeate faith throughout their subject areas.

*Concrete initiatives, and funding to enable them, are in place to assist schools in the theological education and faith formation of staff.

Commendations:

- Overall 74% of students and staff agree that curriculum integrates faith. For example,
 - Using the churches as landmarks in social studies
 - Sharing the gifts that God has given us through science
 - Saints are featured in Language Arts
 - Using the story of Noah's Ark to count by two
 - Finding words from the Bible during animated literacy
 - Social studies grade 5 tying in diversity to Jesus' teaching
 - *"We were doing poetry so we included the books of psalms. CS Lewis, and his book The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe is mentioned in our religion text so I use the book as the hook.*
 - *"With my kids, I teach them about the cracks of grace. So if one of the students is struggling, we stop everything and pray. I want to show them that you can pray for everything and that it should be at the top of our priority. I got them rosaries, brought them to Holy Trinity to get them blessed and twice a week we pray the rosary. One decade a week. Next month I plan to introduce the sacred mysteries.*
- 80% of staff agree that they are knowledgeable of Church teaching, apply it to subject areas in which they teach, and actively seek connections between the subject matter and the teachings of the church.

Areas of Growth:

- The delivery of curriculum is faith infused.
 - 61.54% students agreed
- Staff to be more explicit making the connection for students.
- Staff is encouraged to plan intentional faith integration in the subject areas.
- Staff are encouraged to seek meaningful assistance from Father Robert to have a dialogue about faith integration in their subjects and continue to invite him to school events, classes and activities.

Mark Three Artifacts



Class: Grade 2/3 Language Arts and Religion

Feb.22/23

Objective-Focus-Goals: [Brainstorming](#) and mindmapping what we have learned about Ash Wednesday at Mass this morning. What is Lent about? What do you need in good writing-details, describing words

Activity: 1) Ash Wednesday Mass with Fr. Robert.

2) After Mass we will watch the Brother Francis video All about Lent, found on the Formed site.

3) In our Writing Books start with the word Lent in the middle. What do you know about Lent? Brainstorm what you know, turn to your elbow partner and share ideas, whole group sharing. Discuss while children are sharing what are the ashes from?

4) Review what have we learnt about Lent? What do we need to do to get the reader excited about our writing?

5) Finish off with spontaneous prayer (something I am focusing on) to ask God for guidance during our Lenten Journey.

Next Steps: Create a paragraph from our brainstorming.

Mark Four: Sustained by Gospel Witness

Standard Four: An excellent Catholic school hires and nurtures teachers, administrators, and other Catholic staff who are living witnesses to the Gospel, and intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and his Church.

*Teachers, administrators, and staff are seen to be valuable contributors to the faith life of the school and parish. This is demonstrated by:

- Regular opportunity and invitation in the school to participate in the parish community (e.g., Sunday Eucharist, sacraments, ministries, parish groups, social life, charity)

*Teachers, administrators, and staff witness their life in Christ through their relationships with parents, students, and each other. This is demonstrated by:

- respect for human dignity
- a welcoming environment
- inclusion of all students, especially the most vulnerable
- discipline procedures
- engagement in community building through school activities

*Teachers, administrators, and staff demonstrate their faith through their active involvement in the school's Catholic culture, especially in liturgy, prayer, and social justice activities. This is demonstrated by:

- planning and engaging in liturgies and prayer, providing an example for students
- engagement in liturgy, communal prayer, scripture, retreats, and other faith events with students
- sharing of faith experiences
- engaging in social justice projects and activities

*As part of their ongoing growth, administrators and teachers create a school faith formation plan, and teachers are highly encouraged to add a faith formation goal into their professional growth plan at the start of each school year.

*Teachers, administrators, and staff are supported in their ongoing faith formation plans with allocated resources.

*The school and division are aligned and effective in their faith formation plans. This is demonstrated by:

- evidence of school and division faith formation plans
- addressing the needs of staff at all stages of evangelization, knowledge, and practice (e.g., a differentiated approach for new teachers, support staff, leaders, subject area experts, etc.)

*Hiring practice places the faith life of the prospective candidate, and the willingness to grow in faith, as a priority.

Commendations:

- Overall 86% agree that all members of the school community contribute to the faith life.
- Staff commented that there are a multitude of school celebrations and assemblies planned by teaching staff on a rotational basis.
- Staff commented that St. Martin's is their other family and work in partnership for the betterment of students and the community at large.
- 99% of parents and staff agree that staff treat others with respect and dignity.
- 100% of staff agree that they are encouraged to grow in their faith life.
- Staff commented on the continual support from the school chaplain. There are multiple opportunities for faith formation through activities, lesson planning and providing a multitude of engaging examples.

Areas of Growth:

- Father Robert would like to see more active participation in the parish community; regular attendance, sacraments, parish involvement and charitable service.
- While all staff agree on the presence of a faith outcome in the school assurance plan, staff were not able to identify the school specific strategies.
- Dedicated time at staff meetings for staff faith formation as modeled at admin meetings.
- School is encouraged to develop a student leadership team to support faith formation and service projects.

Mark Four Artifacts



St. Martin's Catholic Elementary School
School Education Assurance Plan
2022 -2026 Division Education Assurance Plan
School Year: 2022-2023

Elk Island Catholic Schools will ensure success for all students.

2022-2023 School Assurance Plan Overview

Strategic Priority	Faith Integration	Learners and Learning	Systemic Wellness	Community Engagement
Goal	<i>Our students, staff and EICS community will be provided a faith integrated environment through worship, witness and service.</i>	<i>Our students and staff will develop to their fullest potential through multiple pathways.</i>	<i>Staff and student well-being, in mind, body and spirit, will be supported through programming and education.</i>	<i>EICS provides enhanced opportunities to support student success through communication, engagement and partnership.</i>
Division Outcome	Students are provided relevant religious education and faith integration in all curricula.	Students access learning opportunities and support that address their diverse learning needs.	Provide proactive, responsive and accessible support for mental health and well-being of our students, staff and families.	Provide appropriate, transparent and timely communication with schools, families and community stakeholders.
School Strategy	Support learning about and practicing faith in school and in all subject areas.	Supporting students' needs with responsive action through various programming.	Support ongoing mental health literacy PD and opportunities for all school staff	Support and help stakeholders access division and school information through social media, local newspapers and school newsletters

- ADD rows if necessary

[Link to School Education Assurance Plan](#)



Chaplain Planning Template
2022-2023

General Information

School	Who is your Team? (Admin - Counseling - FWW - CRC Chaplain lead)
St. Martin's	Joe Kucy, Melanie Sorochan, Kathleen Bohaychuk, Bridget Yaremko

The Basics

Adoration	planned-Need to adjust, Ask Fr. Robert for May 12
Faith Formation (including at all staff meetings)	ongoing
Attending Mass 2-3 times a year as a school	Oct. 5 Dec. 16 Feb. 22-Ash Wed April-TBD June-TBD

Beginning of the Year Reflection: Where is your school on the journey toward faith integration and faith formation? Temperature check?

I would say our team is strong at faith integration. We have weekly prayer assemblies as a whole school lead by a different class every week. There is an awareness from all that Christ is the center of our daily lives



[Link to Chaplain Planning Template](#)

Mark Five: Shaped by a Spirituality of Communion

Standard Five: An excellent Catholic school recognizes that all members of the community contribute to its faith life, building unity and communion.

*Roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders are clearly articulated and understood (e.g., teacher, administrator, trustees, school council, volunteers, and provincial groups involved in Catholic education).

*The Catholic school adheres to board policies and administrative procedures to resolve conflict in a manner consistent with Gospel values.

*The school has an active school council working toward the shared purpose of a Catholic school.

*The Catholic school has a plan to encourage involvement of parents in the life of the school and parish.

*The school recognizes the role of the local bishop in teacher education and formation with respect to Catholic doctrine in his jurisdiction.

*The school and the local parish, as possible, work together to nurture the faith life of families who send their children to the Catholic school. This is demonstrated by:

- Connecting families to parish information, such as reception of the sacraments, youth groups, ministries, and social events

*The Catholic school frequently invites local parish priests, deacons and religious to school functions and encourages them to be actively involved in the school community.

*Schools engage in communication with community/stakeholders This is demonstrated by:

- newsletters, media stories, and social media to share, celebrate and advocate for the Catholic school and publicly funded Catholic education.

*The Catholic school engages with outside agencies that provide support to students, ensuring respect for and alignment with the Catholic worldview.

Commendations:

- 95% of staff agree that they are aware of the role of a catholic educator.
- Father Robert is invited and involved in the life of the school.
- Father Robert shared that a non-catholic student will be baptized because of the influence of the school staff. He was encouraged to attend mass during Covid and he is discerning attending World Youth Day.
- Parents commented on the appreciation of celebrating the sacraments both at the school and in the parish.
- Agreement by staff (95%) and parents (90%) that school is supported by an active school council.
- Parents commented that they are always welcome and encouraged to participate in school events and activities.

Areas of Growth:

- 77.5% of parents agree that the school is actively connecting the family to the parish activities.
- Father Robert encourages staff to become more active in the parish life and modeling for families.

Mark Five Artifacts



ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 6, 2023

ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

VIA Google Meet

- 1.0 Call to Order
 - Introduction of guests and executive
- 2.0 Opening Prayer
- 3.0 Approval of minutes January 9, 2023
- 4.0 Approval of Agenda
- 5.0 Standing Business
 - 5.1 Principal's Report
 - 5.2 Teacher's Report
 - 5.3 School Trustee Report
 - 5.4 CEPAC Report – Next Meeting February 23, 2023
 - 5.5 REAL Foundation Report – Jocelyn Mouyios
 - 5.6 St. Martin's School – Historical Status
 - 5.7 Parent Engagement Opportunities – School Council Grant \$500
- 6.0 New Business
- 7.0 Adjourn

Next Meeting March 6, 2023

[Link to SAC Agenda](#)



Better Together: One Body in Christ Final Thoughts

First and foremost, we encourage the St. Martin staff to actualize the school mission statement. While staff are aware of the school mission, motto, and the yearly faith theme, staff are encouraged to revitalize and actualize the school mission statement. We encourage staff to engage with both students and parents to bring the mission statement to life and to help lead the faith life of the school.

Students and staff members agree that faith through prayer is an integral part of the school. However, we encourage administration and staff to create opportunities to collaborate and develop ways to integrate faith with more depth in the faith life of the school and in the subject areas. Father Robert also commented on his willingness to be more active in the classroom and support staff with faith integration and to better support faith formation.

Staff faith formation needs to be an integral part of the school community. Integration of staff faith formation will help staff to be better formed as Catholics integrating knowledge and personal growth.

Finally, there is genuine care for one another shared by students, staff and parents. The time spent at the school exemplified a true sense of community, inclusivity and genuine care and connection. Students, staff and leadership welcomed the review team and passionately shared their pride in St. Martin.

The St. Martin's school community is creating a true sense of belonging, putting students at the heart of what they do.

