

# Rationale and Philosophy

Awards offered to students attending St. Augustine School are based on the following rationale and philosophy:

It is the **mission** of St. Augustine School to establish a:

“Christ-centered Catholic community committed to providing the highest quality education for our students. Through service, caring and love we create an environment of respect and understanding in which everybody can grow.”

## We believe:

- that Christ is the focus of our Catholic Education and integral to our everyday actions.
- that parents are the first and most important educators of children and that our school exists to assist them in providing a high quality education.
- that the education of students is a shared responsibility among the home, school and parish.
- that all students have the right to receive a sound academic education to enable them to apply their learning to daily life.
- that every member of our community has the right to a safe, secure environment where everyone is consistently treated with dignity and respect.
- in accepting, understanding and celebrating the diverse cultures within our school communities.
- in the need to inspire all with a sense of hope.

## We value:

*forgiving compassion*

*dignified respect*

*inspired hope*

*complete trust*

*loving care*

*Christ-like prayerfulness*

## Our Motto:

Our school motto is ‘Let Your Light Shine’. These concepts are at the heart of what our school community seeks to accomplish: to provide assistance to parents in their efforts to educate their children in a manner that supports the development of the entire child: mentally, physically and spiritually.

Our school will focus on the 7 R’s: reading, writing, arithmetic, respect, responsibility, well-roundedness and religion.

The first three are very well known: reading writing and arithmetic, otherwise referred to as ‘the basics’. Providing a program that concentrates on the continuous growth and assessment of each child to maximize their God-given academic potential is a priority. Inquiry-based and co-operative learning strategies will be employed to deliver the Alberta Education curriculum with the use of technology and learning opportunities beyond the classroom whenever possible.

Emphasized as well, are the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> R’s, respect and responsibility, developed by Thomas Lickona and the Character Education Partnership, focus on developing the child in virtuous behaviour desirous in a contributing citizen of our community. These concepts are the backbone of our school behavioural management philosophy.

The 6<sup>th</sup> R, well-roundedness, speaks to our commitment to assist students in the discovery and exploration of their own unique intelligences as described by Howard Gardner (Musical, Linguistic, Logical, Naturalistic, Kinesthetic, Intrapersonal and Interpersonal). Along with offering programs such as physical education, fine arts and music as regular classes, staff will be encouraged to facilitate student growth in these dimensions by integrating appropriate strategies within core curriculum classes.

Religion, the 7<sup>th</sup> R, is at the core of our programming. Along with regular instruction in Catholic teachings, our faith will permeate everything we do as a school community. Through our actions and words we will walk in the footsteps of Christ in our quest to serve the Lord and each other. Included is a focus on servant leadership and team-building. Students will be expected to participate in community service projects with their class and endeavour to assist others in their growth whenever possible.