

A Message to Parents of Ward 75

From Trustee John Acheson

January 10, 2017

Curriculum Redesign and Catholic Education

Alberta Education has initiated a major review of the Program of Studies. The outcome of that review will determine what your children will be taught, in six major subject areas, for essentially the rest of their school careers.

On the evening of January 26, 2017, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education will outline the general details of the review for the parents. Details are attached.

The Curriculum Redesign Initiative does provide an opportunity for all to reflect again on the uniqueness of Catholic education and of its importance in the lives of our children. While this communication is not the place to enter into meaningful reflection the following are among the reasons as to why Catholic education is of critical importance to our students. The constructs listed emanate from the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and have recently been articulated by Fr. Matt Malone SJ ([America](#), 2016 10 24).

1. "Faith and Reason (Science) work hand in hand. Without faith reason is strictly scientific knowledge; and without reason faith can be a dangerous and deadly force." Catholic education affords the opportunity for our students to appreciate the continuity of the two. One significant example can be found in the debate that takes place between Creationists and Evolutionists. Our students must learn that it is a false dichotomy to suggest that God's story is one or the other – it is both.
2. Apart from our parishes the Catholic school is one of the few remaining places that consciously cultivates a distinct Catholic World View. This is a World View that was painted by Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*. It is a World View that recognizes our individual and collective responsibilities to all others and to the world itself. Our Catholic schools have a mandate to help our students develop a Catholic World View.

St. Joseph and Newman Colleges have invited Catholic education leaders to engage in a Conversation on Catholic Education using the forgoing as a basis for that discussion. It is an important discussion that hopefully will add to the strength of the Redesigned Curriculum and of its application in our Catholic schools.

In closing I wish you and your families God's blessings in the New Year



The Board of Trustees'
Parent Engagement Evening on
CURRICULUM REDESIGN

Join Ellen Hambrook, Assistant Deputy Minister
of Education, Trustees and Superintendent
Joan Carr to discuss Alberta Education's
Curriculum Redesign Initiative

January 26, 2017
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
at Archbishop MacDonald High School
14219-109 Avenue

What is curriculum redesign
and how will it affect
my children?

