



Distinctly Catholic

**GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS FOR CATHOLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**



Graduate Expectations for Catholic Secondary School Students

FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) governs and assists all partners in the Catholic Education community.

The Catholic community has distinctive expectations for Catholic secondary school graduates. In addition to its spiritual focus, Catholic curriculum is designed to meet the educational goals outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training.

Catholic curriculum writers and educators use these defined goals as a common reference point for curriculum decisions at all grade levels.

The Institute for Catholic Education is dedicated to working with, bringing together, and assisting all those who share responsibility for English Catholic education in their efforts to promote and maintain Catholic schools animated by the Gospel and reflecting the tenets of the Catholic faith.

The Institute was established by the Bishops of Ontario in 1986. Recognizing the collaborative nature of Catholic education, the direction of the Institute for Catholic Education is confided to a Board of Directors with representatives from the associations of Catholic Bishops, teachers, trustees, parents and administrators.

USING THE GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

Context

This image of the learner was developed by the Institute for Catholic Education in consultation with representatives of the Catholic community across Ontario.

The life roles, knowledge, skills and attitudes outlined in this document describe the distinctive expectations that the Catholic community has for graduates of Catholic secondary schools.

These expectations are based on research which identified current and future educational goals and priorities across the province and enhance the expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training as outlined in provincial curriculum documents.

Purpose

The starting point for the design of a provincial curriculum framework begins with

the learning expectations which define what all students are expected to know, to do and to value when they graduate from secondary school.

The knowledge, skills and values described in this document create a common reference point from which Catholic curriculum writers can develop more comprehensive and specific curriculum in each subject area.

Catholic curriculum and resource materials, at all grade levels, contribute to achieving these expectations for graduating students. Teachers in Catholic schools will use these expectations to make curriculum decisions concerning program planning, instructional strategies, evaluation and assessment.

Catholic schools provide educational programs and services for students with a variety of learning needs and abilities. This framework document recognizes the need for flexibility to accommodate individual student differences.

As growth to full Christian maturity is a lifelong journey, we recognize that the attainment of these expectations will continue beyond graduation from secondary school. Because faith development is also an internal process, some expectations are beyond quantitative measurement.

We know, too, that because of our human condition, we cannot expect to achieve all of these guiding principles perfectly; yet we persevere courageously, grounded in our essential humanity and humble dependence on God.

The Christian vision regarding the value of the human person and his/her journey is passed

on only through community. Therefore, it is imperative that everyone in the Catholic community shares the responsibility to educate through our young people.

The Institute for Catholic Education encourages students, teachers, parents, guardians, school councils, employees, business, labour community groups and individuals to discuss and use this document to guide the education and faith formation of students in Ontario Catholic schools.

Catholicism's core understanding of the human condition.

Distinctive expectations for graduates of Catholic schools are determined and shaped by the vision and destiny of the human person emerging from our faith tradition. This Christian anthropology or world view, reveals the dignity and value of the person. Our tradition tells us God creatively and lovingly calls each of us into the wonder of life, sustaining us by the power of the Holy Spirit, throughout the human journey, into life eternal. We acknowledge that the journey includes moments of brokenness and sin. We recognize in the person of Jesus, the risen Christ, the human face of God sharing our life in order to heal us of our brokenness and liberate us from sin.

This Christian vision of the human journey is best understood within the context of relationship. It is accomplished in community, in solidarity with brothers and sisters in the Church and beyond.

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.

Vision of the learner.

THE GRADUATE IS EXPECTED TO BE:

A discerning believer formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.

An effective communicator who speaks, writes, and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.

A reflective, creative and holistic thinker who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.

A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.

A collaborative contributor who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.

A caring family member who attends to family, school, parish and the wider community.

A responsible citizen who gives witness to Catholic social teaching, by promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life.

For a more detailed description of these expectations, please contact the Institute for Catholic Education at: 416-962-0031.

The flexible structure is designed to meet the present and future educational needs of students, including those with special needs.

Everyone in the Catholic community must share the responsibility for the religious and educational development of our children.

The Christian vision and values upheld in the Catholic community add a unique dimension to the expectations for Catholic school graduates.

In addition to academic training, they are provided with life-long spiritual skills.