

Policy 1

DIVISION FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

Nothing in this policy is to be interpreted so as to limit or be a waiver of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School's rights and powers pursuant the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools. If any of the provisions in this policy, or associated procedures, conflict with the St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School's rights and powers pursuant to the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools, the St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School's rights and powers pursuant the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools will govern.

Mission Statement

Rejoicing in the way of Christ, we nurture a love of learning in faith-filled Catholic schools!

Vision

Souls seeking Christ on a journey of faith, learning and love

Core Values

We are dedicated to dignity, love of God and each other, the Gospel message, excellence, and Catholic education . . . for life!

Belief Statements

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

Logo

1. The Idea

In June 2001, St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division #38 developed a new logo that encompassed our purpose and vision in educating the Catholic students of our communities. This logo is the second official mark used to visually represent the school division that was formed in January of 1995. The logo is inspired by the tradition of Christian symbolism and theology and by the educational purpose of our division.

2. The Colours

Blue, the color of the sky, is symbolic of heaven and of our Father's heavenly touch. Blue also connotes eternity and immensity, time and space. The colour blue has also been used to symbolize truth throughout antiquity. Blue is the color most often associated with issues of the spirit and intellect and has been used as a colour to symbolize the evolution of education and serious study. The colour gold represents God and His illuminating light of the world. It is a sacred colour that reminds us of the hope that the Holy Trinity offers to those who embrace faith. As such, gold also represents the warmth of the human spirit. The logo is comprised of four designs that encompass the whole.

3. The Compass

The combination of the circles and stars creates a compass that represents our responsibility in guiding the future of the children in our care. It is also symbolic of the many paths that we may take in our lifetime. However, these paths are guided by our Catholic faith and the hand of God. The compass also symbolizes the value of the human intellect and is thus the spirit of education. Knowledge of the compass as a directional device came to Western Europe sometime in the 12th century from China. As an ingenious tool for navigation, the compass was embraced by the intellectual society of Europe. St. Thomas Aquinas himself, as a continuous student of the world, would have appreciated the value of such a tool.

4. The Circles

The circle as part of the compass is universal in representing the notions of totality, wholeness, eternity and God. 'God is a circle whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere' (Hermes Trismegistus). It also represents the circle of life that begins and ends in the hands of Our Father. The circle symbolizes the unity of education and Catholicism within the boundaries of the communities we serve.

5. The Stars

The star in the centre of the compass is not only representative of the acronym for St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic but is also a strong symbol of our Catholic faith. The star is the presence of the divinity, it is hope, and it is a symbol of constancy and guidance. We are reminded of the Star of Bethlehem that led the shepherds to Jesus. As such, it represents the light that we follow to reach our place in heaven.

6. The Cross

The cross at the centre is the axis of the logo as our Catholic faith is the base of our daily lives. The gradient of gold emanates the light of Christ and reminds us of our salvation through Christ's sacrifice and faith.

This combination of graphic images and symbolic elements effectively expresses the unity of our Catholic faith, our commitment to education and our celebration of community. It shows that God is the Source of all and the basis upon which Catholic education takes place. This logo has been inspired by the hope brought forth in our children and the joy of Our Father's wondrous light on us all.

Legal Reference: Section 11, 18, 19, 53, 67, Education Act

APPENDIX DIVISION LOGO