



# News Release

March 20, 2024

## Laurie Kardynal appointed new STAR Catholic Superintendent of Schools



**Leduc** — STAR Catholic School Division is thrilled to announce the appointment of Laurie Kardynal as the new Superintendent of Schools.

Kardynal brings with her over 30 years of experience including as a teacher, ten years in administration as both K-12 Principal and Vice Principal, Curriculum and Assessment Consultant, Implementation Consultant for Alberta Education, working with pre-service teachers at the University of Alberta and, most recently, as STAR Catholic's Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services.

A key highlight of Kardynal's leadership journey has been a long-term partnership with a school in Finland where she has visited, studied, and learned about their leading-edge best practices in education.

Kardynal is eager to step into this new leadership role and take on the important work of building on Division strengths, searching for areas for potential growth, and continuously striving to assist the Board of Trustees in achieving its key goals and priorities.

"Our Board's priority was seeking out a candidate that is capable of continuing to expand on the already impressive accomplishments of STAR Catholic School Division while moving us in a positive direction going forward," says Board Chair Donna Tugwood.

"Laurie has clearly demonstrated her dedication to and passion for providing high-quality Catholic education to our communities and the Board of Trustees is eager to see what the future holds with her guiding us at the helm."

Kardynal, who will assume the position of Superintendent as of August 2024, says she is looking forward to working alongside STAR Catholic's numerous parish and community partners for the continued benefit of the Division, adding that she will make all decisions while keeping in mind what is best for students and their families.

"It is truly an honour to accept this position and I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve such an incredible Division in this capacity," says Kardynal. "I am committed to my work on behalf of the STAR Catholic family and confident in my ability to capitalize on the momentum the Division currently experiences while constantly seeking out opportunities to maximize our efficiencies, adapt, grow, and thrive."



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“I believe we can make the most impact on our society through nurturing our youth in a faith-filled environment. Student success and supporting their God-given talents should be at the core of all we do. There is no better way to accomplish this than through the role of Superintendent of Schools.”

*Based in central Alberta, Saint Thomas Aquinas Roman (STAR) Catholic School Division represents 12 schools that serve the communities of Beaumont, Drayton Valley, Lacombe, Leduc, Ponoka, and Wetaskiwin. The STAR Catholic Schools team of teachers and support staff are committed to giving more than 4000 students across our division every opportunity to achieve their potential in a caring, safe and Christ-centered environment.*

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