



# Sacred Heart School High School Expansion - Consultation Backgrounder Package

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# Executive Summary

This backgrounder outlines the stakeholder consultation plan to determine if it is viable to add grades 10 to 12 at Sacred Heart School in Wetaskiwin (Starting with Grade 10 in September 2025). The goal would be for students to continue their high school education in a Catholic environment.

## Key Stakeholders

As we embark on the consultation journey, input from parents, educators, and community members will be crucial in determining the need and viability of a Catholic high school.

### Stakeholders include:

Sacred Heart School: Students, staff and parents  
Community Members  
Parish Members

## Introduction

Catholic education has a well established and long standing history in the Wetaskiwin community. As enrollment in the school continues to rise, some students and parents have identified a pressing need for an expansion to high school that aligns with its values and educational goals.

### It is anticipated the expansion to high school would:

- Serve the educational needs of the students in high school
- Provide choice in education
- Allow for a faith-based high school education in Wetaskiwin

### Key objectives:

- Enhance educational offerings
- Increase community engagement
- Address the growing demand for a faith-based education in Wetaskiwin

# Detailed Background Information

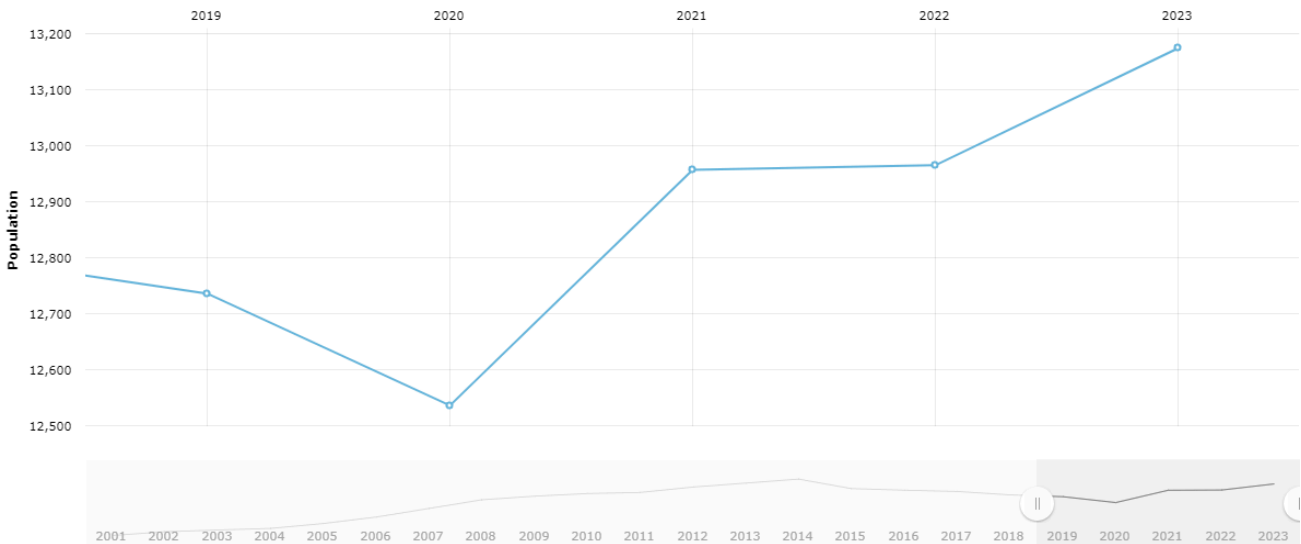
## History/Context:

Sacred Heart School has provided educational and faith development to the community of Wetaskiwin since 1903. This long history, and the strong ties with the church and parish have provided the backbone of its ultimate mission, “Bringing Children to Christ.”

The school serves nearly 550 students from Kindergarten to Grade 9, and strives to provide an enriched, well-rounded educational program in academics, arts and athletics. It is made up of approximately 25% First Nation, Metis, and Inuit and 7% EAL.

The school amenities include two gyms, small construction lab, foods room, music room, drama stage, library space with a dedicated librarian, a hockey program etc.

## Community Population Demographic:



Wetaskiwin had a population of 13,174 in 2023. The population of Wetaskiwin increased 1.61% year-over-year, and increased 2.92% in the last five years.

	12,965	13,174	1.61%
Trend	2022	2023	Annual Change

### Source Attribution

Office of Statistics and Information, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance (Last Updated: August 01, 2024)

### Facility Current Capacity:

- Classroom space: The school is currently at 90% capacity. There was much advocacy by the local trustee and administration for a portable classroom, to relieve utilization pressures. This portable became fully functional in January 2023.
- Gym Space: The school has 2 gyms that are utilized for most blocks throughout the day

### Projected Capacity:

Adding high school to the current facility without additional portables and assuming only 30 students per grade would impact utilization as approximated below:

2025 (Grade 10)	2026 (Grade 11)	2027 (Grade 12)
93%	98%	102%

## Relevant Issues/Challenges

- **Funding:** Securing adequate funding for infrastructure and resources is essential for the success of the expansion
- **Staffing:** Due to subject specialty needs, a minimum of 2 teachers would be required.

*Note: The cost of 2 teachers, with benefits, is currently \$217,000*

- **Course Offerings:** The school is not set up for high school CTS offerings. The Capital Plan has identified the Construction lab as undersized. There is also a foods lab and a music room.