



# News Release

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## STAR Catholic School Division recognizes Brooklynn deWaal for Excellence in Catholic Education Award



**Leduc** — STAR Catholic School Division is pleased to recognize École Mother D'Youville School teacher Brooklynn deWaal for this year's Excellence in Catholic Education Award.

deWaal is a valued member of STAR Catholic staff, teaching subjects ranging from Elementary Art to Junior High Humanities. Along with her teaching responsibilities, she contributes as a member of the school's Religious Education Committee and plays a key role in supporting faith development within the school community.

Dedicated to enhancing Religious Education, deWaal has spent countless hours developing resources, sharing monthly lesson plans, and providing activities that help staff integrate faith into their classrooms. She plays a vital role in supporting the school's Religious Program, contributing to both the elementary Advent retreat and the Advent NET retreat.

"I am very lucky to be able to work for the same district that I was a student in from kindergarten to grade twelve" deWaal explains.

"It is a blessing to be able to share my faith with a new generation of students. My journey from a student with STAR Catholic to a teacher has been a full-circle experience, and I feel privileged to give back to a community that gave so much to me," she says.

Beyond the classroom, deWaal works closely with the Parish community, coordinating school masses both within the school and at St. Vital Church. Her collaboration with Father Les and Deacon Dan has strengthened the school's liturgical experiences. Additionally, she has been instrumental in forming a joint choir with the division's sister school in Beaumont and engaging with various Parish groups.

deWaal's commitment to service extends further as she coordinates student leadership initiatives, service projects, and global outreach efforts to support sister schools in other countries. She is also a passionate coach for the school's volleyball and basketball teams, reinforcing the values of teamwork and dedication.

"Brooklynn deWaal is a true example of faith in action in our school. She continuously demonstrates her ability to be the hands of Christ in our building." Says Principal Angela Rastovski. "She continuously works to prepare our students to encounter Jesus in real ways through service, relationship, connection and compassion. We are tremendously blessed to have her as an instrumental part of our community"

Presented annually by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA), the Excellence in Catholic Education Award recognizes passionate Catholic teachers in Alberta who have gone above and beyond to guide youth as they grow into exemplary Catholic citizens.

*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 4,700 students across our division every opportunity to achieve their potential in a caring, safe and Christ-centered environment.*

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