

Precious Blood Catholic School Handbook

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[PBS Twitter Account](#)

[PBS Facebook Page](#)

[PBS Website](#)

[HPCDSB Website](#)

[Lake Huron Family of Parishes Website](#)



"To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

WELCOME TO PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The purpose of this document is to familiarize both students and parents with some of the general policies and practices at Precious Blood School. This is a working document; please take the time to review the information provided.

SCHOOL STAFF

1. Denise Morrison	Kindergarten
2. Ashley Smale	Kindergarten DECE
3. Heather Dickins	Kindergarten/Grade 1
4. Natalie McConnell	Grade 1/2
5. Brenyn Hodge	Grade 2/3
6. Kate Dobson	Grade 3/4
7. Kristie Cresswell	Grade 4/5
8. Rochelle Gibbings	Grade 5/6
9. Brittany Wilson	Gr. 6/7
10. Sandra Irwin	Gr. 7/8
11. Irene Tait	Special Education Resource Teacher
12. Robert Ringuette	French
13. Justine Cook	Music
14. Sandra Gregus	Drama/Dance/Health/Phys. Ed
15. Julia Burton	Educational Assistant
16. Sydney Otten	Educational Assistant (IS)
17. Kim MacLay	Library Technician
18. Jessica Yarema	Noon Hour Monitor
19. Nikki Fodor	Noon Hour Monitor
20. Brian Hodgins	Custodian (daytime)
21. Ken Brideau	Custodian (evening)
22. Lacey Vander Burgt	Office Assistant
23. Rhonda Regier	Principal

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

RETURN TO LEARNING – FALL 2021

In the interest of the health and safety of our students and employees, we will continue to follow all health and safety protocols as determined by Huron Perth Public Health and our school board. These protocols include hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, and minimizing touch points among others.

Self-Monitoring and Self-Screening

It is the responsibility of all students (to the degree possible relevant to age and development) and parents/guardians to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 on a daily basis using the [Ontario COVID-19 School Screen](#) prior to arrival at school.

Parents/Guardians will acknowledge that they are conducting a self-screen each day by completing the electronic [PBS Daily Student Self-Screen Form](#)

COVID-19 Symptoms

COVID-19 Symptoms may include the following:

- fever (feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or higher)
- chills
- cough that's new or worsening (continuous, more than usual)
- barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing (croup)
- shortness of breath (out of breath, unable to breathe deeply)
- sore throat
- difficulty swallowing
- runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- lost sense of taste or smell
- pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- headache that's unusual or long lasting
- digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain)
- muscle aches
- extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)
- falling down often
- for young children and infants: sluggishness or lack of appetite

For more information please visit the [Ministry of Health – COVID-19: Stop the spread](#).

Students Exhibiting Symptoms While at School

For students showing COVID-19 symptoms that are not typical for the student, the student will be immediately isolated in a separate, supervised isolation room in a manner that protects the dignity of that student. Parents will be notified immediately and a parent (or designate) must come to the school to pick up their child promptly.

If unable to reach parents/guardians, the school will call the emergency person on file.

Symptomatic students will be supervised by the Principal or designate who will follow safety protocols. Soiled personal items will be placed in a securely tied plastic bag and

sent home with the student's parent/guardian. Soiled items will not be rinsed and/or washed at school.

Masks

Students in Grades 1 - 8 are required to wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school and on the bus. Please send an extra mask in a sealed plastic bag in case they need to change their mask during the day and contact Mrs. Regier if you require assistance obtaining masks for your child(ren). Students in Grades 1 - 8 are to arrive at school wearing their masks as physical distancing among all students cannot be assured. They can only remove their masks when eating or drinking or when a staff member indicates it is safe to do so. Students must remain in their assigned seats while eating.

At this time, students can remove their masks once in their assigned outside recess zone and must put it back on before leaving their zone to line up as physical distance from students in other classes cannot be maintained during transitions. It may be helpful to send a lanyard for the masks so that they don't get lost, misplaced, or touched by others.

Students in Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8:55	School Arrival
10:40 - 11:00	Recess
11:50 - 12:10	Recess
12:10 - 12:30	All students eat lunch in classrooms
2:10 - 2:30	Recess
3:15	Dismissal Begins

STATUTORY/SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Thanksgiving – October 11, 2021
Christmas Day – December 25, 2021
New Year's Day – January 1, 2022
Christmas Break -- (inclusive) December 20 – December 31, 2022
Family Day – February 21, 2022
March Break -- (inclusive) March 14-18, 2022
Good Friday – April 15, 2022
Easter Monday – April 18, 2022
Victoria Day -- May 23, 2022

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (no school for students)

August 31, 2021	September 2 & 3, 2021	November 5, 2021
February 1, 2022	June 10, 2022	June 28, 2022

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Arrival

Students are encouraged to arrive at school as close as possible to 8:55 am each day and proceed directly to their designated class line. Buses will be unloaded one at a time and each class will be brought into the school before the next bus unloads. Students who walk or are dropped off are to wear their mask as soon as they are on school property and join their class line as they arrive. They will be brought into the school with bus students after each bus unloads.

All classes have been assigned a specific door from which they will arrive and depart. Students in K - Gr 3/4 will line up at the front door and students in Gr 4/5 - 7/8 will enter through the West gate and line up at the side door near the Intermediate classrooms. Students arriving late to school will enter through the front door.

Dismissal

The dismissal routine will be staggered with each bus being loaded and departing in turn before walkers are dismissed one class at a time. All pupils are instructed to go directly home when dismissed.

Parents/caregivers picking up students are asked to wait in a physically distanced manner on the Marlborough Street sidewalk. Once all buses have departed, parents may meet their children on the Sanders Street sidewalk in front of the school.

Please ensure the greatest amount of physical distancing possible on the sidewalks and be extra alert when driving and on the lookout for our students. Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about the importance of maintaining distance with children (outside their family) when walking to and from school. We also ask that all adults wear a mask during drop off/pick up as physical distancing cannot be assured.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to ensure that your child arrives safely at school. Attendance is taken at 9:00 am. If your child is going to be absent, late or picked up early, please use School Messenger as it is an easy and preferred method. If you need to call, please dial 519-235-1691 to inform the school. When leaving a message, please indicate your name, your child's name and the reason for absence.

If we cannot account for your child, you will be contacted and so will your second contact if required. We have policies and procedures to follow to ensure that students are safe and accounted for. Also, a reminder that Education Law requires that students "attend classes punctually and regularly" so please support your child with this requirement.

If picking up your child while school is still in progress, please ring the doorbell located at the front door and your child(ren) will be sent out to you.

STUDENT LUNCHES AND SNACKS

Please send only snacks/food the child can open on their own. Food sent to school will be kept with the child's belongings. Parents/guardians are encouraged to pack ice-packs in the lunch box/bag if lunch requires refrigeration.

Students will eat and drink in the classroom at their assigned seat. No food or drink should be shared with others.

If a student forgets his/her lunch, contactless delivery from a family member is permitted at the front entrance. The student will be called by the main office to come and pick up their delivered lunch.

Students will not be permitted to leave school grounds during the lunch hour unless they have permission to walk directly to their own home for lunch, or are being picked up by a parent/caregiver. More information will be shared soon regarding the hot lunch and milk program.

OUTDOOR LEARNING & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Learning activities may be held outdoors when possible and appropriate to do so. Physical education, in particular, will be held in outdoor spaces when weather allows so, please ensure your child is dressed for the weather each day.

Our gymnasium is once again open for student use. All staff and students will sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the gym. All equipment will be disinfected after use and activities will be planned that align with our safety protocols.

Indoor shoes are permitted this year and will be kept at school. Please be sure the indoor shoes have non-marking soles and can be worn for physical activities in the gym - running shoes are ideal. Wearing shoes inside continues to be mandatory.

RECESS

There will be three common recess breaks for all students. The yard will be sectioned into nine zones and each class will be assigned a zone for the day, rotating through each zone consecutively. Students are to remain in their zone and not mix with students from other classes.

Play structures and/or sports fields will be open with regular sanitation and cleaning taking place every morning. Each class will be provided with their own equipment which will be disinfected after use.

Children must have staff permission to leave the school yard (to get a ball, etc.) in order to ensure safety. Please remind your child(ren) that the fences and trees at school are not to be climbed under any circumstances.

VISITORS

At this time, only essential visitors will be admitted to the school. Generally, parents are not considered essential visitors. Great care and planning will be taken to permit essential services, personnel and support to continue.

MEETING WITH STAFF

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's program and/or well-being, a meeting with the teacher is highly recommended. However, as a courtesy to that staff member, an appointment is necessary as his/her first responsibility is to the safety and teaching of the students in his/her care. Please contact the teacher to arrange a mutually suitable time and mode of meeting (ie virtual, telephone). If there is something that the teacher needs to know that day, please call the main office. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Regier if there are any issues.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CSAC) (Parent Council)

The Catholic School Advisory Council is constituted from elected members representing parents, teachers and non-teaching staff as well as an appointed parish/community member(s). The Council meets at least four times throughout the year to provide advice to the principal and where appropriate to the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board on matters which have been identified as priorities. If you are interested in CSAC, please contact the school for more information and look for meeting times and updates from the Council in our Week at a Glance messages.

LAKE HURON FAMILY OF PARISHES

We are an active member of the [Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes](#) community and work closely with other members to build and maintain strong relationships between home, school, and our Parish family, based on the foundation of respect and the values of Catholic faith. Our commitment is to provide exceptional Catholic Education, which will foster the development of our students' spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual talents and abilities.

What follows are general policy and procedures for Precious Blood School. They are listed in alphabetical order for your convenience.

ALLERGY ALERT

We have individuals in our school with severe allergies to certain foods or stings. Please help us to keep ALL of our children safe by packing lunches and/or snacks that do not contain peanut/nuts or peanut/nut products. Please review the following guidelines with your child:

- 1) Snacks are NOT to be shared with other students.
- 2) Utensils are NOT to be shared with other students.
- 3) Hands are to be washed after eating anything that may contain allergen products. Traces of the allergen can get on the bus seats or playground equipment, desks and personal belongings.
- 4) Absolutely no food or drink is permitted on the bus or the playground.

Although no school can commit to providing an allergen free environment, by working together, we can do our best to keep ALL of our students safe and comfortable.

BUS ARRANGEMENTS

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board has a policy which states that the Board provides home-to-school and return transportation for eligible students only. Students must ride on their assigned bus and in their assigned seat; bus notes will not be allowed. Students will not be allowed more than one address. It does not have to be the student's home address, but only one address per student. The only exception would be a joint custody arrangement.

BUS DELAYS/SCHOOL CLOSURES

From time to time bus routes may need to be cancelled due to weather or other circumstances. This could happen more often this year, due to a shortage of drivers. Parents/caregivers must have a backup plan in case routes are cancelled.

Information on cancellation/closures will be provided by email through School Messenger. We will also post school delays/closures on our school Twitter & Facebook accounts:

[PBS Twitter Account](#)

[PBS Facebook Page](#)

[PBS Website](#)

Please also visit [Huron Perth Student Transportation Services](#) for closure, cancellation and/or delay information.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

Students must follow these expectations while riding a school bus.

1. Students in Gr 1 - 8 are required to wear face masks on the bus and students in Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to do so as well.

2. MUST sit in their assigned seats.
3. LISTEN to and follow directions from the bus driver at all times.
4. Always treat the driver, the passengers, and the bus itself with RESPECT.
5. Board and exit the bus in a safe manner – always WALKING, hands to self.
6. Sit and remain SEATED until bus has come to a complete stop at your drop-off.
7. Absolutely NO food or drink on the bus.
8. Absolutely NOTHING goes out the window! (hands, objects, paper, etc.).
9. Use INDOOR VOICES when speaking on the bus.

COMMUNICATION

In an effort to be environmentally and fiscally responsible, all communication will be emailed and/or posted on our school social media sites. If your family does not use the internet, arrangements can be made through the school office to send home *paper copies* of any correspondence. Please contact our office know if you require paper copies.

The school will provide various mass emails to families including a weekly update but families are encouraged to check the school Facebook and Twitter accounts regularly especially for pertinent information such as school delays/closures.

Classroom teachers will share their preferred means of communication. Feel free to contact the classroom teacher if you require assistance.

MEDICATION

If your child requires prescription medication to be administered during the school day, you must inform our office and make arrangements to complete the required school plan of care/medical forms. Precious Blood staff are only allowed to administer prescription medication that is provided in the *original container with the child's name, drug name, date of purchase, storage instructions, administration directions, and the Doctor's name*. This medication will be kept locked in the office. Those children receiving daily medication will be assisted to set up a routine for remembering to come to the office at the right time. Medication that can be administered outside of school hours, without an adverse effect on the student, should not be given at school. If your child has any medical concerns, please inform the school as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. If there are changes to their medical condition, please update the school immediately. The Plan of Care form will be sent home to update any medical conditions.

ROWAN'S LAW

The Ontario Government has enacted Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018, S.O. 2018, c. 1 ("Act"). Ontario Regulation 161/19. This Act requires all school boards to have a concussion policy. In HPCDSB, this is found in Policy 3D:17 - Concussion Management. In order to fulfill the obligations of this policy, parents/guardians are required to, as set out in Rowan's Law, review the Ontario Government's issued Concussion Awareness Resources on an annual basis by completing the electronic [Concussion Acknowledgement](#)

SAFE AREA PROCEDURES

A safe area procedure is a preventative measure taken to reduce risk by limiting the number of people who are present or have access to a specific area. We initiate this type of procedure for many reasons, such as when responding to a *medical emergency, working with a vulnerable or dysregulated student, or addressing unsafe school conditions (wet floor, damaged or broken equipment, etc.)*. In addition, safe area procedures are often used to preserve the dignity of an individual during a vulnerable time. This is a situation where we need the hallways to be clear of all individuals and to remain cleared until further notice.

In a Safe Area Procedure, classrooms will:

- 1) Lock door and keep students inside the classroom.
- 2) Encourage any student who was using the restroom or was in the hallway, etc. to immediately go back to their home classroom.
- 3) Continue to run as normal.
- 4) Wait for the announcement that the safe area procedure is over

SAFETY MESSAGES – REMINDERS

Bicycles

Students who bring bicycles to school are asked to walk their bike once they reach school property, and park them in the bicycle racks provided. They are not to be used in the school yard. All bikes should be locked and are not to be touched by other students. Bicycles are out of bounds at recess. At the end of the day, students are required to walk their bikes off of school property.

Wheel Shoes, Roller Blades, Skateboards

These items are not to be used on school property because of safety issues. Please dismount when you arrive at school and carry the item onto school property.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

It is the policy of the school that money is not kept here overnight. We strongly encourage all financial transactions to go through School Cash Online. If you have any questions or need assistance on how to use this online payment platform, please contact Ms. Vander Burgt in the main office.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Please review the following with your child (respecting human dignity):

Shirts/Tops – no inappropriate messages; nothing that reveals the midriff, breasts or navel; no spaghetti straps (straps at least 5 cm in width); if sleeveless, clothing is to fit snugly around the shoulder and under the armpits

Pants/Skirts – will not be worn so low as to reveal underclothing or buttocks; skirts and shorts must be a minimum of mid-thigh in length

Hats/Caps/Hoods – are not to be worn in the school at any time, except for special “Hat Days”

Footwear – pupils must wear properly fitted shoes while in school

SUN SAFETY

It is important that children’s skin is protected. The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that we limit sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. We also need to teach our children to seek or make their own shade using trees, buildings, clothing, hats, and sunglasses. Slather on sunscreen with SPF15 or higher and don’t forget sensitive areas such as the nose and the tops of the ears. Reapply often. If you would like more information about sun safety, visit www.cancer.ca or contact Huron Perth Public Health toll free at 1-888-221-2133.

TECHNOLOGY

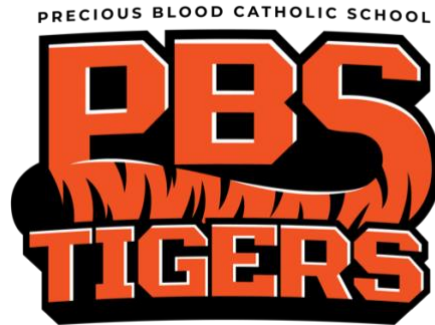
Precious Blood is fortunate to have many learning devices so there isn’t a need for students to bring in their own devices to school. **Students are strongly encouraged to leave their personal devices at home.** Any personal devices brought to school are brought at the student’s own risk. The school will not take responsibility for any personal devices that are broken, lost or stolen.

Our expectations regarding the use of technology include but are not limited to:

- Technology will be used for instructional purposes only under teacher supervision and will not be used for socializing (i.e. snap chat, texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- Students will not engage in viewing or listening to any inappropriate materials and students will not access technology during unsupervised recess or lunch
- Students will follow privacy policies and not post personal contact information about themselves or other people. Personal contact information includes surname, birth date, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses (including photos)
- Students will promptly disclose to their teacher or other school employee any message they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable
- Students will not attempt to gain unauthorized access (on or off school property) to the Board’s system which includes attempting to log in through another person’s account
- Students will not engage in any activities that may be prejudicial, discriminatory or libelous and will not use inappropriate language

TELEPHONE USAGE

Students are strongly encouraged to leave their cell phones at home. **Any cell phone brought to school must remain in the student’s backpack until he/she has left school property.** Any telephone communication between parents and students must be done through the school office.



Precious Blood Catholic School Code of Conduct

Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you.'

Purpose of the Code

Precious Blood Catholic Elementary School is committed to working with families, the parish, and community partners in maintaining a safe, secure, Christ-centered and student-focused learning environment. We believe that safe schools are a prerequisite for student achievement, and that students should feel and be safe in school and on school grounds.

Precious Blood promotes a positive school climate where all members of the school community feel safe, included, and accepted, and actively promote positive behaviours and appropriate interactions among all members of the school community. A whole-school approach, which involves all members of the home-school-parish community, is necessary to ensure that schools are places of belonging. Building and sustaining a positive school climate means that we embrace the diversity of our school, which includes, but is not limited to: staff and students of any race, ancestry, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, physical and intellectual ability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, age, marital status, and/or family status.

With the right to be safe comes the responsibility to contribute to our positive school climate and:

- to ensure that all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect
- to promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community
- to maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility
- to encourage the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict
- to promote the safety of all people in the school
- to avoid the use of alcohol and illegal drugs
- to prevent bullying in schools

Promoting and Supporting Positive Student Behaviour

Precious Blood Catholic Elementary School realizes the non-negotiable need to provide a safe, caring, and inclusive school environment. A faith-filled positive school climate will ensure that the dignity of every person is being honoured and respected. Maximizing students' learning potential and ensuring a positive school climate for ALL members of the school community can only occur through the implementation of proactive, positive practices, program modifications and/or accommodations. These may include, but are not limited to:

- class placement
- positive encouragement and reinforcement
- support and/or counseling from various community and/or Board agencies (i.e. Huron Perth Public Health, Huron Perth Centre, Big Brothers/Sisters, priests, social workers)
- conflict resolution
- student leadership programs and school-based teams and/or club involvement
- bullying prevention programs
- student success strategies
- Safe and Healthy School Committee

Roles and Responsibilities

(as found in Provincial Code of Conduct PPM #128, Dec. 2012)

Principals, under the direction of their school boards, take a leadership role in the daily operation of a school. They provide this leadership by:

- Demonstrating care for the school community and a commitment to academic excellence in a safe, inclusive, and accepting teaching and learning environment;
- Holding everyone under his/her authority accountable for his/her behavior and actions
- Empowering students to be positive leaders in their schools and community;
- Communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community.

Teachers and Other Staff, under the leadership of their principals, maintain order in the school and are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behavior. As role models, teachers and other school staff uphold these high standards when they

- Help students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
- Empower students to be positive leaders in their classrooms, school, and community;
- Communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents;
- Maintain consistent standards of behavior for all students;
- Demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and other members of the school community;
- Prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship.

Students, are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of citizenship, through acceptable behaviour. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student:

- Comes to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn;
- Shows respect for him/herself, for others, and for those in authority;
- Refrains from bringing anything to school that may put his/her safety or the safety of others at risk;
- Follows the established rules and takes responsibility for his/her own actions;
- Uses technology according to the expectations and rules of the Board (3B:5), specifically the rule of the electronic transmission or posting of photographic images of a person or persons on school property, at school events, and during school activities, and/or hours is prohibited;
- Uses communication technology according to the expectations and rules of the Board (3D:7), specifically, avoids deliberate behavior (individually or in a group) that is intended to harm others or has a negative impact on the school climate.

Parents, play an important role in the education of their children and can support the effort of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill this responsibility when they:

- Show an active interest in their child's school work and progress;
- Communicate regularly with the school;
- Make sure their child is neat, properly dressed, and prepared for school;
- Ensure that their child has healthy snacks/lunch or informs the Principal of various needs
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- Inform the school promptly about their child's absence or late arrival
- Become familiar with the provincial code of conduct, the board's code of conduct and the school rules;
- Encourage and help their child follow the rules of behavior
- Assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

Definition of Progressive Discipline

(adapted from Board Policy 3D:10)

Progressive Discipline, is a whole-school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences to address inappropriate student behavior and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. In everything we do in our school, we are led by our Faith, and a conscious effort to model the Beatitudes and Cardinal Virtues, while responding as a caring Catholic community. It includes a response to misbehavior which shifts the focus from punitive to corrective and supportive. It also includes a range of responses that include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behavior while helping students make good Christ-like choices in the future.

Range of Responses

The components of an in-school progressive discipline continuum include but are not limited to:

- verbal or non-verbal messages/reminders
- re-location within the classroom or learning environment
- private consultation with the student
- student reflection (orally or in writing)
- collaboration with parent or guardian
- detention / loss of privileges
- collaboration with other school personnel (e.g. principal, special education resource teacher, peer mediation)
- restitution, restorative justice, and/or community service
- suspension (principal shall consider mitigating circumstances as per Board Policy 3D:1)
- expulsion (principal shall consider mitigating circumstances as per Board Policy 3D:2)

ONTARIO CATHOLIC GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board believes that learners in a changing world must be:

- witnesses to the truths and values of the Catholic faith
- responsible citizens in a global community
- informed decision-makers
- confident problem-solvers
- self-motivated, life-long learners
- capable users of technology
- appreciative of the arts
- responsible for living a healthy lifestyle
- co-operative and collaborative participants

