

Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

	200 – INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS &	CODE:	AP 202
SECTION:	MATERIALS		
PROCEDURE:	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		

BACKGROUND

The achievement of the Division's mission, vision and goals requires the provision of formal religious instruction and celebration within the school. Therefore, all students will take part in the religious education program and the religious life of the school.

The Division is committed to the delivery of Catholic Education to all students enrolled in its schools. Religious Education forms an essential part of that delivery, and therefore, it requires its students to participate in the faith-life of the school, including courses in Religious Education.

Religious Education is designed to promote a religious literacy that assists students in the task of becoming life-long learners in relation to the religious dimension of human experience within a multi-religious society. It is also designed to assist in the process of ethical and moral formation within a culture that all too often fails to recognize the centrality of the human person and the importance of ethical norms. Religious education must be pursued with sensitivity to the freedom and responsibility of students, to the practical and social conditions in which students live, and to the historical times that influence these conditions.

Catholic parents send their children to Catholic schools with certain expectations. The overriding expectation is that their daughter/son will experience education permeated with religious values, religious instruction and be invited to participate in the sacramental life of the church. They also expect that Catholic values will be held, modeled, expressed and taught within the Catholic educational community.

The three basic means by which separate school boards provide Catholic education are:

- ♦ By developing each school as a Catholic community in all of its academic and nonacademic activities;
- ♦ By providing qualified teachers, supervisory officers and other personnel who are committed to building a Catholic community in the school system; and
- ♦ By providing academic curricula, including formal religious instruction, in which Catholic faith and life are integrated.

It is also critical that "Religious Education is based upon strategies for presenting theology to young people in a way that is appropriate to their age and ability and sensitive to their freedom and responsibility, and to the affective and personal dimensions of students' lived experiences." (The Status of Religious Education Courses in Catholic High Schools, I.C.E., 1999)

PROCEDURES

1. Religious Education forms an essential part of Catholic Education, and therefore, all students are required to participate in the faith-life of the school, including courses in Religious Education.
2. It is understood that enrollment in a Catholic elementary or secondary school necessarily implies acceptance of and participation in Religious Education Programs and Courses. The Principal shall advise all parents of the expectation of the school that their children will participate in religious studies and the religious life of the school.
3. A student's failure to comply with these requirements may result in his or her removal from attendance at the school.
4. The religious education program will include formal classroom instruction, acts of charity, pursuit of social justice and religious celebrations.
5. Teachers shall be advised at the time of recruitment that they must be willing to provide instruction in religious education and must be prepared to participate in in-service activities which enrich knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
6. All staff members of the Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools shall strive to permeate all aspects of life in the Division with the religious dimension.
7. The Principal shall be responsible for encouraging staff to permeate all aspects of life in the Division with the religious dimension. The following activities shall be encouraged:
 - 7.1 Regular blessings of daily work and meals.
 - 7.2 Prayer/liturgical celebrations at appropriate times during the school year.
 - 7.3 A School Opening Liturgy for all staff every year.
 - 7.4 An annual Faith Development Day.
 - 7.5 Annual retreats/reflections days for staff and secondary students.
 - 7.6 Catholic Education Week celebrations.
 - 7.7 Division-wide activities that celebrate Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools.
 - 7.8 Celebrating and affirming staff and students for the many activities in which they are involved which demonstrate the spirit of Catholic Education.
8. Administrators in the Division shall ensure that teacher placements reflect appropriate backgrounds in theology and religious education.
9. Teachers shall integrate Catholic teaching into all subjects both in the content and method of instruction.
10. The Director shall have in place a Program of Studies in Religious Education, approved by the Board, which sets out the various courses to be followed at all grade levels.
 - 10.1 The Program of Studies shall encourage service to the community and social justice activities for all secondary students.

- 10.2 The Program of Studies shall acknowledge and affirm the diversity of churches and faith traditions.
11. The Principal shall ensure that religious education courses are offered at all grade levels.
- 11.1 All religion teachers shall follow the Program of Studies in Religious Education approved by the Division.
- 11.2 All elementary and junior high school students shall take a Religious Education course each year.
- 11.3 In order to receive a high school graduation diploma from Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools, all senior high students shall complete Christian Ethics or Catholic Studies10, 20 and 30.
- 11.3.1 New students registering part way through high school will meet the above requirement for religious education based on the discretion of the Principal.
- 11.3.2 Where diverse scheduling is required, the Principal will determine the appropriate mode of delivery.
12. All students are expected to participate in the religious life of the school at least to the level of being respectfully attentive.
13. Religious Education Services shall be responsible for providing:
- 13.1 Leadership in the faith development and theological education of all staff.
- 13.2 Theological consultation.
- 13.3 Consultation for the Program of Studies in Religious Education.
- 13.4 Consultation for permeating the Program of Studies with the religious dimension.
- 13.5 Consultation for permeating all aspects of life in the Division with the religious dimension.
- 13.6 Support to the pastoral leadership of the parishes.
- 13.7 Linkages with the wider community.
14. Schools shall strive to cooperate with parish teams to enhance the religious education of the students and the faith life of the school.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 175, 182, 184 Education Act

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