

Principal's Message:

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

Dear Families,

What a wonderful start we have had to our school year! We are truly flourishing as a community, and I am delighted to share that we have welcomed over 30 new students into our school family. This growth reflects the spirit of our Division's Faith Plan, "Open Wide the Doors!" – a call to invite one another to know God and to support each other in faith. Already in these first weeks, we have witnessed this invitation come to life through the warmth, collaboration, and care shown by our staff and students in helping newcomers feel at home.

Our school has already been buzzing with activity and connection. We've enjoyed gathering for our Welcome Back BBQ, kicking off Cross Country and Volleyball Athletics, participating in the Terry Fox Run, and sharing in our joyful Welcome Back Breakfast for staff and students. Most recently, our community has been learning about and engaging in Truth and Reconciliation Week. To celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and our new beginning, we will come together as one family of faith this Friday for our Opening School Mass at St. Michael's Church – a beautiful way to officially begin our year.



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For all new families, and those who need a reminder, please be sure to stay connected with your child(ren)'s teacher. Regular communication helps us support your child's learning journey in the best way possible.

As we look ahead, I wish each of you a blessed and supportive school year. Please know that our dedicated staff are working hard to ensure that every day at our school is filled with learning, love, and joy. Together, we are building a thriving community rooted in faith, growth, and celebration.

Blessings on the year ahead,

♥ Karen Schmidt



Walking in Faith:

by Mark Wynder - Assoc. Principal

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

This year, we have embarked on a new three-year faith plan called "Open Wide the Doors! Sent to Share Christ's Love." In our first year, we as a school community are reflecting upon the parables of Christ. This month's parable comes from Luke 8:5-15 — The Parable of the Sower.

Luke 8:5-15

5 "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. 7 Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. 8 Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" 9 Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant.

10 He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that
'looking they may not perceive,
and listening they may not understand.'



Walking in Faith:

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

13 The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and, in a time of testing, fall away.

14 As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

15 But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance."

In this parable, the farmer notices how seeds grow differently depending on where they land. It invites us to reflect on how we respond to challenges, new opportunities, and learning.

Some things are easy to grow in; others are harder. Sometimes we need a little extra care to thrive. Faith isn't just about getting answers right away — it's about planting seeds of knowledge, building skills, and giving ourselves time to grow. Just as plants need water and sunlight, we need patience, practice, and encouragement to reach our full potential. Whether in school or in life, growth doesn't happen overnight — but every effort we make helps us move forward.





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DATES TO REMEMBER

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

SEPTEMBER

29th

- Feast Day of St. Michael
- ISP PD Day - No School



30th

- Nat'l Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 - No School



OCTOBER

13TH

- Thanksgiving Day - No School



ST. MICHAEL'S
SCHOOL



Please click the calendar to
the left to view the full year
school calendar!

[SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR](#)

[KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR](#)

REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Leaving Early?!

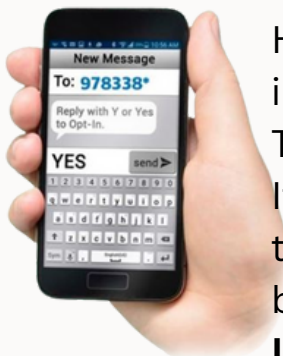
If your child needs to leave school early, please notify the office at 403-627-3488 as early as possible. Please also make sure you sign your child out in the office when they are leaving early!



Arriving Late?!

Please stop in the office to sign in if you arrive to school late! Elementary school students are considered late after 8:30am, and Junior/Senior High students are considered late after 8:40am.

School Communication



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division uses SchoolMessenger to improve our schools' communication with parents and guardians. This service does not replace other school communication methods. It is simply intended to extend beyond what we've traditionally used to ensure timely communications and reduce the amount of papers being sent home.

If you would like to receive text messages for school closures please click here for instructions and more information!

Contact Us:



864 Christie Avenue,
Pincher Creek, AB



403-627-3488



facebook



@stmichaelspc



mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca



<https://smcpc.holyspirit.ab.ca/>

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs
8:00am - 4:00pm

Friday
8:00am - 2:00pm

REMINDERS & INFORMATION

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

DRESS CODE:

- No spaghetti straps/halter tops/one shoulder shirts/tube tops.
- Tank top/muscle shirt straps must be at least 4 centimeters in width
- Bra straps must not show
- Underwear, that of both ladies and gentlemen must not show
Midriffs must be covered.
- Shorts and skirts must be fingertip length (arms straight down at sides).
- No hoodies with the hood up, sunglasses, during instructional school hours, or during formal extra curricular activities such as the awards ceremonies
- T-shirts/shirts/hoodies must not have advertising which depicts controversial, obscene, rude, inappropriate and/or drugs and alcohol content on them.



WANTED: WORKING CAMERAS!!



Mr. Smith is looking for old (working) cameras for his Photography options class this year. Please drop off any donations at the school office. Thank you!

ST. MICHAEL'S
SCHOOL

We now accept Debit/Credit at the office.



**Come into the office if you'd like to pay for student fees with debit/credit cards!
We can take MasterCard, Visa, AMEX, and apple pay!**

REMINDERS & INFORMATION

FSLC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."



Welcome!

Your FSLC - Shay

Welcome back and welcome to our new families to our school! My name is Ms. Shay and I am your Family School Liaison Counsellor (FSLC) here at St. Michael's School.

Family Fun

Every month I will add fun activities that may interest you and your children in participating in!
Please follow us on social media for other updates!

What do I help with?

- Resources- looking for something? I can help
- Advocating for students and families
- A safe place for students to share their stories
- Parent/family support



Hygiene

This Month we will be talking about hygiene in grades 5-7 classrooms and the importance of taking care of ourselves.

Please send me a message or call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Creative Questions from Parents to Teens

<https://www.intunefamily.com/blog/9-creative-questions-to-ask-your-teen-after-school-today>

Contact Info

Phone: 403-634-2151
call/text

Email:
hildebrands@holyspirit.ab.ca



ST. MICHAEL'S
SCHOOL

SM REMINDERS & INFORMATION

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."



FIRST NATIONS METIS AND INUIT (FNMI)

Sheena Adamson
FNMI Academic Support
(Grad Coach)



Tracy Wolfe (Piitaaki)
First Nations (Niitsitapi), Métis
and Inuit Facilitator



St. Michael's School
864 Christie Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0
403-627-3488
smpcoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca



Iispok'ksikatkimayaa
"Striving for Higher Knowledge"



SM REMINDERS & INFORMATION

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."



SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT

REPRESENTATIVES

- 1 parent representative for each class for Pre-K to grade 6.
- 1 parent representative for the whole of Junior High
- 1 parent representative for the whole of Senior High
 - Get the chance to represent your child's class monthly!
 - Share school news and activities to and with other parents in the class.
 - Get involved in planning & executing fun activities!
 - Meet once a month (1st Tuesdays at 7pm).



FOR MORE INFORMATION

- mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca
- call school: 403-627-3488



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
PINCHER CREEK
— Est. 1904 —

M REMINDERS & INFORMATION

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

Let's get kids active in sport! If your family income is at or less than the following Income Cut-Offs, we welcome your application for funding of up to \$350 per child, per year towards your child's sport registration fee(s). Applicants to live within the Town or M.D. of Pincher Creek and registered in an ongoing sport or activity that is led by a qualified coach or instructor.

Household Size (Includes Kids)	Income Cut-off
2 Persons	\$57,005
3 Persons	\$70,081
4 Persons	\$85,086
5 Persons	\$96,504
6 Persons	\$108,839
7 or more Persons	\$121,177

TO APPLY:

Complete a KidSport Application Form and attach a copy of **one of the following** to verify your income eligibility.

- Notice of Assessment for EACH adult in the home for the most recent tax year
- Child Health Benefit Letter
- Subsidized Housing
- Canada Child Benefit Notice
- Income Support
- Three Consecutive Pay Stubs

OR:

- Complete a KidSport Application Form and have it **signed by an Endorser** i.e. school principal, social worker, member of clergy, doctor etc. that can verify your family situation or need.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Pincher Creek KidSport c/o Pincher Creek Recreation Office
895 Main Street, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0

Phone 403-627-4322 or email pinchercreek@kidsport.ab.ca

Application forms can also be accessed at <https://kidsportcanada.ca>

Even if families do not meet the requirements, ALL applications will be considered!!

M REMINDERS & INFORMATION

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

CO-OP GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER



- This is Friends of St. Michael's Foundation's largest fundraiser of the year. Pincher Creek CO-OP generously donates 10% of proceeds off every card bought directly from the Friends Foundation
- Need fuel, groceries, or hardware? Great for stocking stuffers. Cards can be used at any CO-OP location
- Easy to sign-up. Request forms are available at the school office or contact Diana Shortt @ 403.627.7740
- This helps the Foundation support student activities and athletics at St. Michael's School, Pincher Creek
- Thanks to CO-OP and to you for supporting this fundraiser!

friendsofstmichaels23@gmail.com,

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfStMichaels>

REMINDERS & INFORMATION

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

St Michael's School

Cell Phone & Personal Electronic Device Policy

(Implemented Jan. 07, 2019/Updated May 2024)

Rationale

Cellphones **are not** considered acceptable devices for educational learning purposes. Although many students have iPhones, and Android phones, iPods, and smart watches, they do not meet the necessary requirements as an accepted learning device. St. Michael's School has Chromebooks, Laptops and iPads available for student use throughout the day.

During Class Time:

Elementary- No cell phones or PED's including smart watches.

Junior High School- Cell phones/PED's can be used on Phone Friday during nutrition break. (Gr 9 allowed their phones during lunch time in the Den)

High School - Cell phones can be used during breaks and spares.

Cell phones and Personal Electronic Devices (PED's) which are brought to school are expected to be placed into the classroom bin at the beginning of every class. Students also have the option to keep their phone 'out of sight' and silenced in their pocket/locker. If the device is visible during class time at all disciplinary action will be taken. This also includes use of smart watches- notifications must be turned off to be worn during instructional time.

Failure to adhere to school protocol surrounding responsible use will result in the following discipline:

1st offence – ➤ cell phone taken away and placed in the office. The device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

2nd offence ➤ cell phone taken away and placed in the office. Student will meet with administration prior to having their cell phone returned.

3rd offence ➤ cell phone taken away, placed in the office and returned to parent/ guardian.

Administration will meet and contact parent / guardian to discuss acceptable use and to return the device.

Images/Audio:

Devices capable of capturing, transmitting, or storing images or recording and storing audio **may NOT** be operated in restrooms, dressing rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Phones must be secured prior to entering the change room.

Under NO circumstances shall any video, picture capturing or audio recording device be used in any classroom without the express consent of the teacher and school administration. Special consideration shall be given to protect the privacy of students in the classroom if such permission is granted. Operation of any electronic device is prohibited in testing situations or where testing materials are present.



DIVISION NEWS & INFO.

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Chantel Axani, Superintendent of Schools



DIVISION NEWS & INFO.

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NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.





DIVISION NEWS & INFO.

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

CCH EAST
Rm 154



October 2025

Explore Careers in Public Safety!

Pathway to Public Safety Networking Day
Lethbridge Polytechnic – Centre Core
Friday, October 3 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Meet 20+ public safety agencies from across western Canada
- Explore programs and training at Lethbridge Polytechnic
- Learn about exciting career options in policing, firefighting, emergency services & more

Green Certificate Program - Now Available

Lethbridge Polytechnic offers a perfect program for students living or working on a farm!

- Earn up to 16 diploma credits
- Get real on-the-job farm experience
- Boost eligibility for agriculture scholarships
- Receive a Certificate of Completion

Interested? Contact your Off-Campus Coordinator or reach out to Lethbridge Polytechnic

Veterinary Technical Assistant Certificate

Graduate with a certificate in animal care while finishing Grade 12!

- Hands-on training with animals and vet clinics
- 5 specialized courses included
- Requirements: 50%+ in core subjects + Workplace Safety course

(See [flyer](#) for full details)

University of Lethbridge Open House

Saturday, October 25 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Hands-on activities, student mentors, and program info sessions!

Register [HERE](#)



University of
Lethbridge

Paid Internships - Careers Next Generation

Careers Next Generation offers paid internships to help you gain work experience, build skills, and explore careers.

Apply here: [New Student Enrollment](#)

After applying, check your account regularly for new opportunities!

Dual Credit Winter 2026 - Apply Now!

Earn high school and post-secondary credits through Dual Credit courses.

- **Lethbridge Polytechnic:** Apply by Nov 28, for Winter courses (Feb 2 – May 13, 2026).
- **Olds College:** Courses run Feb 25 – May 20, 2026. Apply early – best by **late fall**.

See [Guidebook](#) for full details. For help with registration, email: amakobev@holyspirit.ab.ca

Students in **Work Experience** and **RAP** must submit their work hours.

Send hours to: hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca

Mark Boschee

Off-Campus Coordinator

Career Centre, East Campus on Tuesday/Friday

Cell: 587-220-4258

Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca



Vero Amakobe

Career Practitioner

Office on Campus, West on Thursdays

403-327-4596 ext 312

Email: amakobev@holyspirit.ab.ca



SAINTS OF THE WORLD



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen



SAINTS OF THE WORLD

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."



May God the Father, who made us, bless us.
May God the Son, who redeemed us,
send healing into our midst.
May God the Holy Spirit, who gives us life,
move within us.

May God give us eyes to see God,
ears to hear God,
and hands to bring God's work
into the world.

May we walk with God
and preach the word of God to all.
May the angel of peace watch over us
and lead us at last by God's grace
To the eternal Kingdom. Amen.

St. Dominic - Pray for Us!

ST. MICHAEL'S
SCHOOL



St. Michael's School Prayer

*Father, we give You our school,
May it be a place where we love to
learn and learn to love;
a place where everyone is
respected, and all are cherished.
St. Michael, give us the courage to
stand up for others as you did.
Unite our school family in love,
truth and compassion.
Walk with us, guide us, and protect
us, as we become who you want us
to be.*

Amen