Christ The Redeemer
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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www.redeemer.ab.ca

November 26, 2026

Dear Okotoks Families and Staff,

Re: Okotoks School Attendance Boundaries and the Opening of École Good Shepherd School

As a Catholic school division, we are guided by our shared mission to place Christ at the centre of all that we do, recognizing that every child is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be welcomed, valued, and supported in their faith and learning. Our Catholic schools are more than places of education; they are faith-filled communities where relationships are nurtured, a sense of belonging is fostered, and students are encouraged to grow as disciples of Christ.

In preparing for changes within our Okotoks school communities, we recognize the importance of honouring these relationships while embracing our responsibility to serve both current and future generations of students. Guided by the Catholic principles of solidarity, subsidiarity, and stewardship, we seek to make decisions that respect the needs of individual families while advancing the common good of our entire Catholic school community. It is in this spirit of faith, care, and shared responsibility that the Board of Trustees has approached the important decisions regarding attendance boundaries and the opening of the replacement École Good Shepherd School (ÉGSS).

In preparation for the opening of the replacement École Good Shepherd School (ÉGSS) in September 2027, the Board of Trustees has approved changes to attendance boundaries and grade configurations across our Okotoks schools.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the approximately 150 parents, staff, and community members who participated in our November 2 engagement session, as well as those who provided additional feedback through the survey and additional correspondence. Your thoughtful contributions have been instrumental in informing our planning and decision-making.

Following a comprehensive review of community feedback, enrolment modelling, school utilization, programming considerations, and transportation implications, the Board of Trustees has approved a plan for the opening of the replacement ÉGSS and revised attendance boundaries for our Okotoks schools.

Listening to Our Families and Communities

Throughout our engagement process, one of the most consistent messages we heard from families was the importance of continuity and stability for students. Families placed considerable value on maintaining friendships, preserving established school communities, keeping siblings together, and minimizing unnecessary school transitions.

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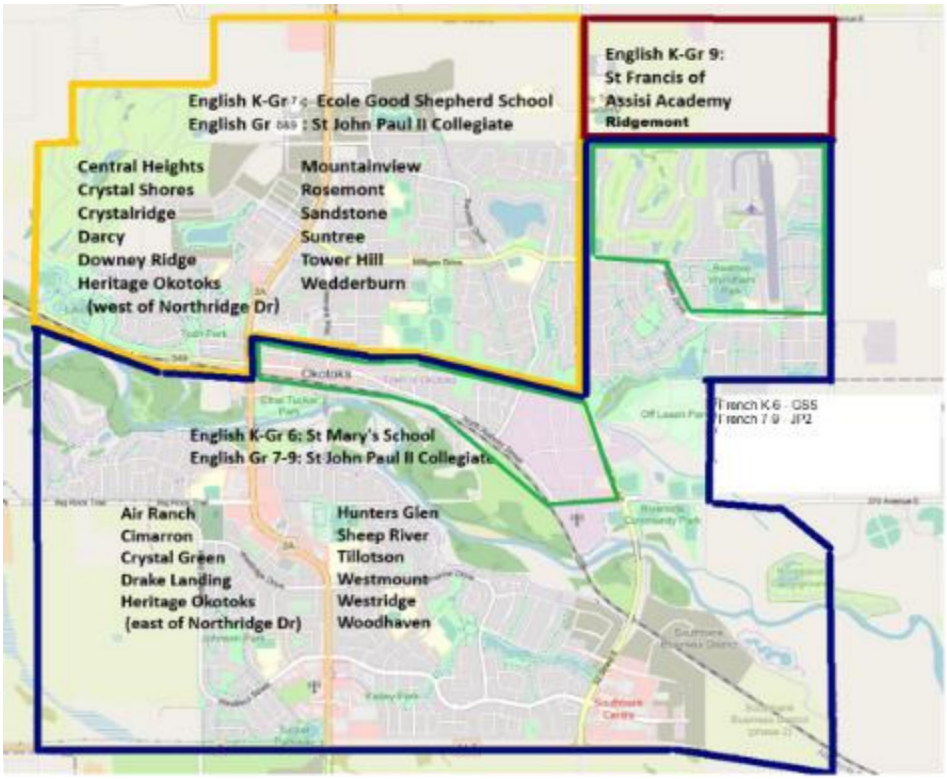
In response to this feedback, the Board considered additional scenarios that prioritized grandfathering opportunities for current Okotoks and area students and their siblings, a gradual introduction of English junior high programming at ÉGSS, and the continuation of junior high French Immersion programming at JPII.

These changes are intended to reduce unnecessary school transitions, preserve established relationships, and provide greater stability for students and families.

At the same time, the Board of Trustees has a responsibility to ensure the effective stewardship of publicly-funded resources, including school facilities, staffing, transportation, and financial resources. Balancing the needs of individual families with the collective needs of a growing community have been central to this decision.

Boundary Map:

The overall Okotoks K-9 boundary map is shown below, with greater explanation regarding grade configurations, programming, and designated neighbourhoods in each school section below.



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École Good Shepherd School

The replacement ÉGSS will ultimately provide Kindergarten to Grade 9 English programming and Kindergarten to Grade 6 French Immersion programming. Junior high French Immersion programming will continue to be supported at St. John Paul II Collegiate.

To support a successful opening and manageable transition, English junior high programming will be introduced gradually according to the following schedule:

School Year	English Programming	French Immersion Programming
2027–2028	K–7	K–6
2028–2029	K–8	K–6
2029–2030	K–9	K–6

Introducing one junior high grade each year will allow students to progress together with their classmates while giving the school time to develop programming and supports as enrolment grows.

Revised attendance boundaries for ÉGSS will take effect in September 2027, with grandfathering provisions available to current students and their siblings.

Communities within the ÉGSS boundary:

- Darcy
- Mountainview
- Sandstone
- Heritage Okotoks (west of Northridge Dr)
- Wedderburn
- Suntree
- Tower Hill
- Crystal Shores
- Crystalridge
- Rosemont
- Central Heights
- Downey Ridge

St. John Paul II Collegiate

St. John Paul II Collegiate (JPII) will continue to provide Grades 7–9 English programming within the revised boundary, while maintaining the established junior high French Immersion pathway for students and families in Okotoks and surrounding communities.

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With the gradual introduction of English junior high programming at ÉGSS, the English attendance areas served by JPII will change over the next several years.

These changes will be phased in to align with the introduction of additional grade levels at ÉGSS and the grandfathering provisions available to current students.

School Year	Implications for JPII
2027–2028	• JPII continues to serve English students in Grades 7–9 within its designated attendance area, including eligible grandfathered students. French Immersion Grades 7–9 remain at JPII. • ÉGSS introduces Grade 7 English programming. Incoming Grade 7 English students residing within the new ÉGSS attendance boundary will attend ÉGSS, subject to grandfathering provisions.
2028–2029	• JPII continues to offer English Grades 7–9 for its designated students and eligible grandfathered students, with a further reduction in English enrolment anticipated. French Immersion Grades 7–9 remain unchanged. • ÉGSS expands English programming to Grade 8. Students progressing from Grade 7 at ÉGSS will remain together as they enter Grade 8.
2029–2030	• JPII continues to offer English Grades 7–9 for students within its revised attendance boundaries and those eligible for grandfathering. French Immersion Grades 7–9 continue at JPII. • ÉGSS introduces Grade 9, completing its English K–9 configuration.

Throughout this transition, JPII will continue to offer strong English and French Immersion junior high programming. The phased approach for junior high entry into ÉGSS is intended to support continuity for existing students and provide clarity for families as their children transition into junior high, while addressing utilization of ÉGSS and JPII as current families are grandfathered. New families will be directed to the new attendance boundaries.

Communities within the JPII English junior high boundary:

- Okotoks Air Ranch (includes Ranchers Rise)
- Crystal Green
- Drake Landing
- Heritage Okotoks (east of Northridge Dr)
- Sheep River (includes Sheep River Cove & Sheep River Heights)
- Hunters Glen
- Woodhaven
- Tillotson
- Westridge

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- Westmount (includes Westmount Estates)
- Cornerstone
- Cimarron (includes Cimarron Meadows, Cimarron Park, Cimarron Grove, Cimarron Springs, Cimarron Vista & Cimarron Estates)
- Rural areas south, south-east & south-west of Okotoks, including Diamond Valley & Aldersyde

Note: all junior high French Immersion students in Okotoks and area will attend JPII.

St. Mary's School

Revised attendance boundaries for St. Mary's School will take effect in September 2027. English K-6 programming at the school will continue.

These boundary adjustments will support a more balanced distribution of elementary enrolment across Okotoks while creating opportunities for St. Mary's School to accommodate future growth.

Communities within the St. Mary's School boundary:

- Okotoks Air Ranch (includes Ranchers Rise)
- Crystal Green
- Drake Landing
- Heritage Okotoks (east of Northridge Dr)
- Sheep River (includes Sheep River Cove & Sheep River Heights)
- Hunters Glen
- Woodhaven
- Tillotson
- Westridge
- Westmount (includes Westmount Estates)
- Cornerstone
- Cimarron (includes Cimarron Meadows, Cimarron Park, Cimarron Grove, Cimarron Springs, Cimarron Vista & Cimarron Estates)
- Rural areas south, south-east & south-west of Okotoks, including Diamond Valley & Aldersyde

Eligible current students and their siblings will have access to grandfathering provisions, while new families will be directed to their designated school based on the revised attendance boundaries.

St. Francis of Assisi Academy

Revised attendance boundaries for St. Francis of Assisi Academy will also take effect in September 2027, continuing to support English K-9 programming.

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These changes reflect the opening of the replacement ÉGSS and the need to establish sustainable attendance areas across our Okotoks schools.

Communities within St. Francis of Assisi Academy's Boundary

- Ridgemont
- Rural areas north, north-east & north-west of Okotoks, including Millarville, Priddis, DeWinton, Artesia & Heritage Pointe

Grandfathering

Grandfathering provisions will support continuity for current Okotoks and area students and their siblings, recognizing the importance of established relationships and connections within the school community.

Managing Growth and Stewarding Our Resources

Okotoks continues to experience significant residential development and population growth. This growth creates both exciting opportunities and challenges for Catholic education, particularly as we work to ensure sufficient school capacity, effective programming, and sustainable transportation services.

In developing and evaluating various scenarios following the engagement, CTR used a zero-growth enrolment model. We did so in response to concerns regarding the application of the blanket 4% growth model, and given the difficulty in accurately gauging the pace of growth in our newer neighbourhoods. This approach allowed us to assess the implications of the proposed changes using actual student enrolment numbers without introducing assumptions about future growth that are difficult to predict accurately.

While this provides a consistent foundation for comparing scenarios, we recognize that significant, though unpredictable, growth is anticipated in some of the communities served by our Okotoks schools.

The approved approach seeks to balance several important considerations:

- Responding to families' desire for continuity and stability through grandfathering.
- Supporting student well-being, established relationships, and a strong sense of belonging.
- Maintaining high-quality English and French Immersion programming.
- Making effective use of available school facilities and resources.
- Managing the increasingly complex transportation patterns associated with community growth, programming locations, and attendance boundary changes.
- Providing flexibility to respond to future enrolment pressures.

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We recognize that the opening of the replacement École Good Shepherd School and the implementation of revised attendance boundaries will not fully resolve the longer-term capacity challenges associated with growth in Okotoks.

The potential need for an additional Kindergarten to Grade 9 Catholic school in Okotoks will remain an important consideration in CTR's future capital planning. The Board and administration will continue to monitor enrolment, residential development, and school utilization to inform future capital priorities and advocacy with the provincial government.

What This Means for Current Families

Recognizing the importance of continuity for students and families, grandfathering provisions will allow current students and their siblings to remain at their existing schools, even if their attendance boundaries change in this November 2026 board decision. Current Okotoks and area families affected by revised attendance boundaries will have the choice, in accordance with the approved grandfathering provisions and grade configurations, to maintain their connections to their existing school communities or transition to their newly designated schools.

To support student continuity and provide families with choice, parents are asked to complete the **Okotoks School Attendance Declaration** form to indicate whether they wish to have their children grandfathered at their current school or attend their newly designated school. Parents will receive an email notification when the declaration form is available for completion in School Engage. This information will be entered into our student information system and used to support enrolment projections and planning for the 2027–2028 school year. **Declarations must be submitted by December 3, 2026.** We appreciate your prompt response, as CTR must prepare enrolment projections for Alberta Education early in the new year.

Registration for new students will open in early December, using the newly approved attendance boundaries. Families seeking placement at a school outside their designated attendance area (and outside of the grandfathering process for continuing families) will be required to complete a **Cross-Boundary Request Form**, including a rationale for their request. These applications will be considered individually in accordance with division procedures. To request this form, please contact your school.

Following the collection of parent declarations, school principals and senior administration will review anticipated enrolment at each school to inform staffing, transportation, educational programming, and other operational decisions. This detailed planning will continue into the new year, with further information shared with families as arrangements are finalized.

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The division will strive to provide transportation to grandfathered students attending outside of their designated attendance boundaries. Transportation arrangements will be finalized and communicated to families in the spring.

What This Means for New Families

Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, new families registering with CTR will be directed to their designated school based on the approved attendance boundaries and programming configurations.

Families seeking placement at a school outside their designated attendance area (and outside of the grandfathering process for continuing families) will be required to complete a **Cross-Boundary Request Form**, including a rationale for their request. These applications will be considered individually in accordance with division procedures. Families can access this request form from their designated school principal.

This process will continue to provide opportunities for individual family circumstances to be considered while supporting responsible enrolment management across our schools.

Moving Forward Together

The opening of the replacement École Good Shepherd School represents an exciting milestone for Catholic education in Okotoks. It provides an opportunity to enhance learning environments, expand programming, and strengthen our ability to serve students and families in a growing community.

We are grateful for the engagement and thoughtful feedback of our families and staff. Your contributions have helped shape an approach that values continuity for our students and school communities while recognizing our collective responsibility to plan for the future and steward our resources effectively.

Together, we remain committed to providing exceptional Catholic education in welcoming school communities where all students experience a strong sense of belonging and opportunities to flourish in their faith, learning, and well-being.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew McIsaac, Board Chair
Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools