



École St. Thomas d'Aquin

In partnership with family, Church and community,
we provide Catholic Education of the highest quality to our students.

Terry Kennedy (Principal)
1970-19th Avenue SE Medicine Hat AB T1A 3X1

Terry.Kennedy@mhcbe.ab.ca
Phone: (403) 527-7333 Fax: (403) 527-7460

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Dear Grade 4, 5 and 6 Parents,

Shortly, you will receive a paper survey in the mail from Alberta Education entitled *Accountability Pillar - Jurisdiction Survey 2017/2018*. This survey is an annual check-up on the education system and provides stakeholders (parents, students and teachers) the opportunity to give valuable information to Alberta Education and school districts to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects concerning education. In mid-to-late January, parents of students in grades 4 to 6 will be mailed a survey directly from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4 to 6 as well as teachers will complete a separate survey online at school. At this time, there is no online survey available for parents...it is only offered on paper.

Parent participation in the survey helps provide us important information on the quality of education your child is receiving. **I strongly encourage you to keep the attached document and use it when completing the paper survey.** École St. Thomas d'Aquin is a fantastic school and I hope you take the time to complete the survey so that our results are a true reflection of our school.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2018 and will be reported publicly as part of our Annual School Plan next year.

I encourage you to take the time to read the attached information before you complete the *Accountability Pillar Survey*. This will help to inform you on how we are meeting the educational needs of our students (your children).

I hope that I can count on you to complete the survey when it arrives in the mail.

As always, please feel to contact me at the school if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Terry Kennedy
Principal of École St. Thomas d'Aquin



Parent Survey Support Document

Part 1 -----

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you ...

1. With the quality of education your child is receiving at school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Grade 6 P.A.T. results 19.1% higher than provincial average in 2017
- Highly-skilled, caring and innovative French Immersion-trained teachers at our school
- Teachers work in their area of expertise
- Outcome-based report cards include meaningful information for parents and students, and help strengthen communication between home and school

2. With the quality of teaching at your child's school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Teachers teach in their areas of expertise and interest
- Teachers continually update their teaching practices through Professional Development
- Administration provides teachers with feedback on their lessons on an on-going basis
- Teachers use PD Days to collaborate with other teachers in our district
- School analyzes PAT results annually to find possible areas of improvement
- Teachers identify students who are at-risk and develop a plan to assist these students

3. With the variety of subjects available to your child at school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- French Immersion programming that follows the Alberta Program of Studies
- Elementary subjects include Math, Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Art, Physical Education, Music and Religion
- Religious instruction provided for all students that follows the curriculum approved by the Bishop
- Participation encouraged in various school clubs and activities (i.e. Computer Coding, Rosary Club, Swimming Lessons, Tennis Lessons, Skating Lessons, Intramurals, String Program etc.).

4. With the opportunities your child has to learn about the following topics at school:

a. Music?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- String Program offered in Grades 4 to 6
- K-6 students receive 3 music periods per week
- Early Learning Program receives 1 music period per week
- Jr. Choir for Grades 3-6
- Rotary Music Festival and Music Monday participation
- Christmas concert
- Annual Talent Show

b. Drama?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Drama integrated throughout the year (Christmas Concert, assemblies etc.)
- Religious Celebrations throughout the school year may include dramatic plays and skits
- Drama productions (at school and during field-trips)

c. Art?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d’Aquin:

- 3 art periods offered from K-6
- TREX Travelling Art Exhibition brought into the school 3 times per year (through the Esplanade)
- Art classes follow the Alberta curriculum
- Student art is displayed at venues such as the Esplanade, the College (during Teacher’s Convention) and other community venues throughout the year

d. Computers?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d’Aquin:

- New Chromebook cart introduced in 2017
- iPad cart purchased in 2018
- Carts are accessible to all students
- Google Classroom being introduced to students and parents
- District computer technology personnel are available to ensure that computers are working properly and are serviced as needed.

e. Health?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d’Aquin:

- Health curriculum included in all grade levels
- Family Life taught in grades 4-6
- Running Club and intramural program offered to promote healthy active students

f. Another language?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d’Aquin:

- Quality French Immersion program offered
- French community Preschool offered
- French Monitor programming (this is a government initiative to bring native French-speakers into French Immersion schools throughout Canada)

5. With the opportunities your child has to participate in physical education at school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d’Aquin:

- Students receive 5 30-minute periods of Physical Education each week
- Intramural program offered over the lunch break (during winter months)
- Participation in monthly extra-curricular events through Elementary Athletics Association
- Participation in Fall and Winter Walk Days
- Swimming, Skating and Tennis lessons
- Running Club

Part 2 -----

To what extent do you agree or disagree that ...

6. Your child is learning what he or she needs to know?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d’Aquin:

- Grade 6 PAT results 19.1% higher than the provincial average in 2017
- Teachers follow the Alberta Program of Studies
- Teachers ensure curriculum objectives are thoroughly covered
- Teachers continually monitor student learning and ensure individual learning needs are met
- Cooperative learning strategies are used to increase student engagement

- Assessments and assignments link directly to what the students need to know

7. Your child finds school work interesting?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Community Classrooms, Field Trips, presentations used to enhance student interest
- Use experiments/hands-on activities where possible
- Use technology to pique student interest

8. Your child finds school work challenging?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Differentiated instruction used to ensure that students are working at their level and experience success
- Teachers extend student learning through extension activities and projects
- Cooperative learning strategies are used to promote discussion and allow for students to challenge one another in a controlled environment on various topics
- Open-ended questioning techniques are used stretch student learning

9. Your child clearly understands what he or she is expected to learn at school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Teachers follow the Program of Studies provided by Alberta Education and student progress is continually monitored for understanding
- Curriculum outcomes are presented in student-friendly language
- Outcome-based Report Cards used to provide students and parents with meaningful information on student progress
- Feedback on assignments, assessments and in-class discussions used to reinforce what the student needs to know
- Exemplars used to ensure students understand expectations

10. Students at your child's school help each other when they can?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Service projects completed by each homeroom throughout the year
- School-wide service projects organized (food drive, Mission Mexico, Toonie Tuesdays etc.)
- "Tribes Learning Communities" introduced at assemblies to help foster relationships and team-building culture at school
- Empathy reinforced in religion class and assemblies
- Leadership skills taught and fostered through lunch monitors, reading buddies and healthy initiatives leadership group

11. Students at your child's school respect each other?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- School expectations clearly defined and enforced throughout the year
- Dare to Care presentation and parent information session (bullying in schools)
- Bully Prevention policy enforced
- Staff model respect and act as Jesus would

12. Your child is encouraged at school to be involved in activities that help the community?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Participation in service projects
 - St. Joseph's home
 - Random Act of Kindness Day
 - Picking up garbage from around the community
 - FCC Food Drive
 - Jump Rope for Heart
 - Mission Mexico
 - Holy Childhood Association collection
 - Toonie Activity collection during Advent and Lent

13. Your child is encouraged at school to try his or her best?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- High academic expectations set for all students
- Parent meetings arranged when needed to facilitate student success
- Star of the Week students highlighted at weekly assembly
- Parent-teacher interviews and student-led conferences used to inform parents of student progress
- End-of-Year awards given to students in various areas
- Outstanding achievements showcased in monthly newsletters

14. Students at your child's school follow the rules?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Weekly assemblies used to address expectations and accountability
- Students recognized for exemplary behavior
- Student expectations outlined in the school handbook
- Principal schedules meetings with families of students who breach school rules on a regular basis
- School Resource Officer contacted when needed
- Supervision by staff to ensure rules and regulations are followed

15. Your child is safe at school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Doors locked during school hours (with the exception of the front entrance door)
- Child pick-up procedure enforced when a student is picked up from someone other than a parent
- Access to a *School Resource Officer*
- Emergency drills including Fire and Lockdown communicated and regularly practiced
- Supervisors scheduled and present before school, during lunch breaks and after school
- Medical records and medical plans kept on-hand in the office for students with medical needs
- Workplace *Occupational Health and Safety* requirements followed

16. Your child is safe on the way to and from school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Bus supervision before and after school
- Direct communication with bus company when needed
- Clearly defined expectations for students enforced while on bus
- Consequences given by bus company and/or school if inappropriate behavior were to occur on bus

17. Students treat each other well at your child's school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Weekly assemblies focus on Gospel message from Sunday mass
- Tribes Learning Communities used to foster relationships among tribes members
- Dare to Care program used to educate students about the effects of bullying in school
- Religion classes emphasize treating others with respect and the way Jesus would want us to treat one another
- Bullying policy enforced as needed
- Staff communicate regularly with families regarding student well-being

18. Teachers care about your child?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Dedicated staff genuinely care for all students in our school
- Teachers schedule meetings with families to ensure students are successful while in our care
- Teachers arrange field trips and overnight trips in areas related to classroom curriculum
- Teachers work outside of school hours to ensure student needs are met
- Teachers access services such as Mental Health, School Resource Officer, Speech services and Occupational Therapy services when needed

19. Your child is treated fairly by adults at school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Discipline policy shared in school handbook and enforced throughout the year
- Bullying policy communicated to parents through website and enforced consistently
- Use of assessment techniques and differentiation to meet individual needs of all learners
- Extra time spent meeting with students and parents outside of school hours
- Families receive report cards 3 times per year to get updates on student progress
- Parent-Teacher Interviews and Student-Led Conferences scheduled throughout the year
- *Meet the Teacher Night* used to engage families in early communication and build sense of community

20. Your child can easily access programs and services at school to get help with school work?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Monthly newsletter outlines community services accessible to families
- Teachers offer extra help outside of school hours
- Calls home/emails/apps used to communicate with parents on a regular basis
- Learning Services accessed when academic/behavioral support is required
- Referrals to mental health, behavior specialist and academic specialist made as needed
- Staff trained in Risk Assessment procedures

21. Your child can get help at school with problems that are not related to school work?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Ongoing referrals to mental health, counseling services, speech therapy and occupational therapy services
- Staff trained in Risk Assessment procedures
- School Liaison Counselor available to counsel students
- Parish Priests, Deacons, and facilitators are available and regularly attend school activities

22. When your child needs it, teachers at your child's school are available to help him or her?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Teachers offer extra help outside of classroom hours
- Second chances offered on assignments, exams and quizzes
- Teachers identify at-risk students and refer them to appropriate services
- Academic support plans developed as needed

Part 3 -----

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you that ...

23. High school students demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for learning throughout their lifetime?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Prepare students by teaching all outcomes outlined in Alberta Programs of Study
- Prepare students by teaching organization, homework and accountability skills
- Prepare students through Catholic character instruction and developing healthy attitudes towards school learning

24. Your child is taught the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for learning throughout his or her lifetime?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Teachers follow the Program of Studies provided by Alberta Education
- Teachers ensure all curriculum objectives are covered
- Students are taught responsibility for their actions and how to show respect
- Students are taught to model positive Catholic values that will lead them to be respected citizens in the community
- Students are taught the meaning of social justice and to help those who are less fortunate than they are

25. Your child is taught attitudes and behaviors to be successful at work when he or she leaves school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Teachers follow the Program of Studies provided by Alberta Education
- Teachers ensure all curriculum objectives are covered
- Proper study habits are taught to students
- Organizational strategies are taught and reinforced.
- Policies in place to encourage students to be on time and to ensure regular attendance
- Students taught ownership and responsibility for their actions
- Religion classes, religious celebrations, weekly assemblies and guest speakers provide a forum for faith-based learning

26. To what extent are you involved in decisions about your child's education?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Annual *School Plan* developed with input from staff and parents
- Parents encouraged to be active members of School Council
- Parents can attend monthly Parent Association meetings and District Board meetings
- Parents encouraged to regularly communicate with school and school district

27. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the opportunity to be involved in decisions about your child's education?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Annual *School Plan* developed with input from staff and parents
- Parents encouraged to be active members of School Council
- Parents can attend monthly Parent Association meetings and District Board meetings
- Parents encouraged to regularly communicate with school and school district

28. To what extent are you involved in decisions at your child's school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Monthly School Council meetings
- "Open-door" policy
- Parents encouraged to communicate regularly with the school and staff
- End-of-year survey sent to all families requesting input on various issues relating to school issues

Part 4 -----

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you:

29. With the opportunity to be involved in decisions at your child's school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Annual *School Plan* developed with input from staff and parents
- Parents encouraged to be active members of School Council
- Parents can attend monthly Parent Association meetings and District Board meetings
- Parents encouraged to regularly communicate with school and school district

30. That your input into decisions at your child's school is considered?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Annual *School Plan* developed with input from staff and parents
- Parents encouraged to be active members of School Council
- Parents can attend monthly Parent Association meetings and District Board meetings
- Parents encouraged to regularly communicate with school and school district

31. In your opinion, has the quality of education that your child experienced at school improved, stayed the same, or declined in the past three years?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- School Plan developed annually with parent input and available on school website
- Gr. 6 PAT results 19.1% higher than provincial average
- PAT results analyzed annually to focus PD and areas of improvement
- Tribes Learning Communities introduced in assemblies this year

The next question is asked so that we may group your answer with others that have been gathered in the survey. All answers will be kept strictly confidential.

32. Is your child male or female?

33. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you that your child can access the following services in a timely manner at school when needed:

a) Academic counselling (Grades 7 and 10)

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

**Please respond with "Very Satisfied" as this does not apply to elementary schools. Anything other than very satisfied...including "Don't know" will negatively affect our results.

b) Career Counselling (Grades 7 and 10)

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

**Please respond with "Very Satisfied" as this does not apply to elementary schools. Anything other than very satisfied...including "Don't know" will negatively affect our results.

c) School Library services

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Pre-K to 6 students can access library weekly
- Library collection grows each year
- Library is open for extended hours during the Book Fair

d) Services (beyond regular instruction) that help students to read and write

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Individual Program Plans (IPPs) are developed and reviewed with parents
- Parent meetings scheduled when/if the need arises
- Teachers meet with students outside of school hours when needed
- Resources available for students who require extra support:
 - Literacy Intervention
 - Precision Reading
 - Access to Learning Services Facilitator
 - Accommodations during assessments (reader, scribe, extra time etc.)

**34. Has your child received special support at school to meet his or her unique needs?
(IF NO SKIP Q.35)**

35. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the special support your child has received at school?

Things we do at École St. Thomas d'Aquin:

- Individual Program Plans (IPPs) are developed and reviewed with parents
- Parent meetings scheduled when/if the need arises
- Teachers meet with students outside of school hours when needed
- Resources available for students who require extra support:
 - Literacy Intervention
 - Precision Reading
 - Access to Learning Services Facilitator
 - Accommodations during assessments (reader, scribe, extra time etc.)
- Access to community outreach programs such as Mental Health, Health Nurse, School Resource Officer, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Behaviour Specialist