

September 8, 2026

Dear CISND Community,

As we begin a new school year, I warmly welcome our students, families, staff, pastors, and parish communities back to the Catholic Independent Schools of the Nelson Diocese.

From the Okanagan to the Kootenays, our schools share one mission, yet each has its own identity. The school takes its character from the people who live, work, and learn within its walls. Students, staff, families, and parishes shape what their school values, how it serves, and the traditions it carries forward. Together, these distinct communities form CISND.

There is much to anticipate this year. Our schools have planned experiences that will extend learning beyond daily lessons: onto playing fields and stages, into our parishes, and throughout the wider community. Students will encounter new ideas, discover what they can do, form friendships, and learn how their gifts can serve others. These opportunities, together with the work that takes place in our classrooms each day, are part of providing an excellent Catholic education.

The CISND faith theme, *Rooted in Faith*, reflects who we are as a Catholic school system. It connects our schools through a shared commitment to Christ, to one another, and to the children entrusted to our care.

Catholic education begins with the understanding that every child is created in the image and likeness of God. Each brings a story and gifts that are entirely their own. Our responsibility is to know each child and support their growth so that, through their experience in our schools, they know they are loved by God, valued, cared for, and welcomed into schools where they truly belong.

To our families: thank you for choosing Catholic education and entrusting your children to us. Your choice reflects confidence in our commitment to educate the whole child within the Catholic faith. To our staff: thank you for the care and commitment you bring to teaching and accompanying each student. To our students: you are the reason our schools exist. Your presence and gifts shape the communities to which you belong.

With gratitude for all who make our schools places of faith and belonging, I pray that Christ, in whom we are rooted, will guide and bless us throughout this school year.

Sincerely,



Pamela Guilbault
Superintendent of Schools
Catholic Independent Schools of the Nelson Diocese