

St. Joseph's Collegiate New High School Staff Engagement

1. What programming needs are important for CTR to know as we plan the interior of the school?

Classrooms & Facilities

- Prayer alcoves or corners should be included in each classroom to provide space for spiritual reflection and practice.
- The school should include multiple science labs to support a range of courses and students, and classrooms should include sinks to allow for safe and convenient clean-up of science materials and experiments.
- Shared lab spaces should be designed to ensure efficient use across classes.
- The library should feature dedicated areas for homework and academic support, with modern shelving, breakout and isolation rooms for exams, a teacher workroom, and a library TV, with a layout planned for easy access and flexible use to support a wide range of learning needs.
- A career counselling design should include large windows, comfortable seating with couches, and accessible spaces that invite students in, creating a welcoming environment for career counseling, with integrated technology support for scholarships and enrollment.
- The school should feature a dedicated theater or performance space for drama and large events, and band and music rooms should be included to support music programming.
- An art room should be designed with ample natural lighting and dimmable lighting options to create an optimal, creative environment.
- The design should include comprehensive CTS facilities such as a mechanics shop, wood shop, welding and construction areas, cosmetology studio, media lab, robotics space, foods and agriculture labs, sewing room, animation and photography studios, cyber security classroom, and dedicated RAP program areas, all developed in collaboration with community partners.

Physical Education & Wellness

- The facility should include a full-size gymnasium and adjacent fitness space to support a variety of physical education needs.
- A dedicated weight room and combative space should be provided to allow for specialized training and programming.
- An indoor walking track around the gym would promote daily activity and support wellness initiatives.
- The gymnasium should be designed without exposed edges to minimize injury risk during sports and activities.
- A dance or yoga studio should be designed to encourage movement-based courses and wellness activities.
- Wired-in clocks should be included to ensure consistent, reliable timekeeping.

Cafeteria & Food Services

- The cafeteria should serve as a flexible and welcoming gathering space for students and staff, and could be used as a CTS Foods Lab.
- The space should support contracted food services to ensure consistent, quality offerings.
- Healthier vending machine options should be included to promote student well-being.

Staff & Teacher Spaces

- The school should include a staff room designed for relaxation and collaboration.
- A dedicated teacher's workroom should be provided to support lesson planning and team meetings.
- Individual teacher offices should be included to allow for private conversations and focused work.

Safety

- Washrooms should feature external sinks for hygiene and convenience, and motion-sensor toilets should be installed to improve cleanliness and sustainability.

- Washrooms should be designed with visible sightlines to enhance supervision and ensure student safety and ensure that sinks are accessible for all.
- Security features should be carefully planned to support after-hours events and ensure student safety.
- Vape detectors should be installed throughout the building to discourage use and maintain a healthy environment.
- Adequate outdoor lighting should be installed to ensure safety for evening and night use of the school grounds, and design should avoid windows at ground level to enhance security and prevent unauthorized access.

Building Features

- Lockers should be built into walls to maximize space efficiency and improve hallway safety.
- Dimmable lighting should be incorporated throughout the building to support diverse learning and activity needs.
- Ample storage space should be planned across the facility to support instructional materials and program needs.
- The design should prioritize sound mitigation strategies, including acoustic panels and thicker walls, to create a focused learning environment.
- Classrooms and common areas should be equipped with air conditioning to ensure comfort throughout the year.
- Natural lighting should be maximized through thoughtful window placement and the inclusion of skylights to create bright, welcoming spaces.
- A central atrium should be designed to serve as a hub for school activity, enhancing connection and community.
- A two-story design should be considered to optimize space usage and promote an efficient, modern layout.

2. What outdoor features or facilities would be important to include in the design?

Social & Outdoor Learning Spaces

- Outdoor areas should include comfortable seating and eating spaces to encourage social interaction among students.

- A courtyard should be designed to double as an outdoor classroom, supporting flexible, innovative teaching practices.

Sports Facilities

- The school site should accommodate multiple sports fields and courts, including dedicated soccer fields, basketball courts, baseball diamonds, a football field, and tennis courts.
- Plans could also include an outdoor rink for winter sports and recreational use.
- Additional features such as a discus and shot-put cage, long jump pits, and racket courts should be included to support track and field programs and varied athletic offerings.
- The school grounds should include both an asphalt track and a rubber track to support a variety of athletic training and events.

Agriculture & Environmental Learning

- The school should include a garden and greenhouse to support hands-on agricultural education.
- A crop diversification center would provide opportunities for advanced agricultural studies and local partnerships.
- Plans should also include additional opportunities for agricultural studies, like chicken coops to enrich learning about animal husbandry and sustainable food systems.

Memorial & Reflection Spaces

- The school grounds should include dedicated memorial spaces such as a grotto, a sanctuary, and a memorial garden to provide opportunities for quiet reflection, remembrance, and spiritual connection.

Parking & Transportation

- There is a need for increased staff and student parking capacity, with separate lots to manage traffic flow effectively.
- The design should include electric vehicle plug-in stations to support sustainability goals and future transportation needs.
- A dedicated bus loop and student drop-off area should be included to improve safety and efficiency during arrival and dismissal times.

- Special spaces should be reserved for accessible parking to meet the needs of students and staff with disabilities.

3. What other operational, faith, or school cultural components do you need CTR to consider as we design the school?

Faith & Spiritual Design Elements

- The school should include a chapel with a traditional design that supports prayer, reflection, and faith-based practices.
- The chapel should feature confessionals to serve sacramental needs.
- A cross should be installed at every building exit to visibly affirm the school's Catholic identity.
- Plans should include an outdoor metallic cross as a prominent symbol of faith on the grounds.
- Stained glass windows should be incorporated to enhance the spiritual atmosphere of key spaces.
- A living wall and vertical agriculture installations would offer a modern, symbolic connection to growth and stewardship.
- Oak paneling should be used to create a warm, respectful, and timeless interior aesthetic.
- A statue of St. Joseph should be placed prominently to honor the school's patron and namesake.
- Meaningful signage throughout the building should reinforce the school's Catholic identity and mission.

School Culture & Identity

- The SJC logo should be embedded in the sidewalk or entrance area to create a lasting and visible expression of school pride.
- Flags representing the diverse multicultural backgrounds of students should be displayed to celebrate and affirm the school community's inclusiveness.
- Trophy cases should be included to honor and showcase student achievements in academics, athletics, and the arts.

- Spaces should be dedicated to displaying student work to encourage creativity and recognize learning across disciplines.
- Grad legacy projects and permanent fixtures should be designed to honor graduating classes and build lasting traditions.
- The school's vision statement should be posted in multiple languages to reflect and respect the diversity of the student body.
- A school mascot should be developed to strengthen school spirit and build a shared sense of identity.

4. What questions do you have for us?

Q: What number of CTS spaces will there be, in conjunction with ancillary spaces?

A: The design plan includes multiple dedicated CTS spaces, which could include some of the following spaces: construction, welding, mechanics, foods, cosmetology, and media labs. Ancillary spaces could also support these programs with shared storage, prep areas, and collaboration spaces to ensure flexibility and efficiency in delivery. However, the building size will limit the number of spaces, which will be considered within our design.

Q: How will the location of the new school impact SWIS workers?

A: Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) will continue to have access to students at the new site. The design will include dedicated meeting rooms and spaces for external services, ensuring privacy and accessibility so that SWIS workers can support newcomer families effectively.

Q: How are we going to offer all the programming needed to support the whole community and strengthen the future of our students?

A: The school is being designed with extensive input from teachers, administrators, and community members to ensure academic, CTS, arts, athletics, and faith-based programming is prioritized. Flexible learning spaces, specialized labs, English as an additional language supports, and partnerships with community organizations will help meet diverse student needs and prepare them for a successful future.

Q: How can we build bridges with Brooks Composite to give students more opportunities?

A: Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools continues to be open to collaborating with Grasslands Public Schools to explore shared programming, joint-use facility agreements, and coordinated extracurricular opportunities where appropriate.

Q: How do we design and build with rapidly developing technology?

A: The new school will be designed with robust infrastructure to support evolving technology needs, including comprehensive Wi-Fi coverage, hardwired data ports in key spaces, and flexible learning labs. Spaces will be adaptable to accommodate future technological advancements in teaching and learning.

Q: How will the location impact bell schedules and timetables?

A: The location is being selected with transportation and accessibility in mind. While final bell schedules will be developed closer to opening, the division will work to coordinate bus routes, student drop-off zones, and school-day timing to minimize disruption and ensure safe, efficient access for all students.

Q: Does Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools have any say over the sourcing of the materials?

A: While Alberta Infrastructure leads procurement for major projects, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools participates in design and specification discussions to ensure quality, durability, and aesthetic goals are met. Sustainable and cost-effective materials are prioritized.

Q: Is there a plan to make this a strict high school (10–12)?

A: The current plan is for this new school to serve grades 9–12, ensuring that program spaces and services are tailored to students' needs. Grade configuration will be determined closer to the opening of the school to reflect the enrolment needs at that time and predicted for the immediate future.

Q: Will the St. Luke's Outreach move into the new school site?

A: There is currently no formal plan for St. Luke's Outreach Centre to relocate into the new high school building, however, Their location will continue to be reviewed into the future.

Q: Will the building be one or two stories?

A: At this time, design plans have not been created. The conceptual design may have a one-story or two-story layout. Christ the Redeemer will make work to make the best use of space and resources.

Q: Will the school fundraise for features of the school? Could this be presented to the graduation class for the new school?

A: While core construction is publicly funded, school communities may participate in fundraising for enhancements or special features such as chapel furnishings, outdoor landscaping, or specialty equipment. This could include opportunities for graduating classes to contribute to legacy projects that leave a lasting mark on the new school.

Q: Will this be a Public-Private Partnership (P3)?

A: This is a decision made solely by the province and has not been made known to CTR at this time.

Q: Is a family donation to name a classroom possible?

A: Naming opportunities may be considered for donations supporting non-core, enhanced features of the school, such as chapel elements, memorial gardens, or specialty rooms. Procedures for such donations would be developed in alignment with the school division guidelines and board approval processes.