



News Release

RDCRS Superintendent receives Doctorate of Education.

For immediate release – September 22, 2022

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) is excited to announce that Superintendent, Kathleen Finnigan, recently received her Doctorate of Education from the Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary. Dr. Finnigan's continued pursuit of professional growth through this doctoral journey, informed her understanding of, and commitment to, addressing current educational trends and issues in public education.

Dr. Finnigan focused on educational research within the Kindergarten to Grade 12 system for her doctoral studies, with a specialization in educational leadership. She also earned a Master of Education degree from San Diego State University in leadership and counseling.

Dr. Finnigan states, "This educational journey provided me with opportunities to learn and understand more deeply the importance of high-leverage leadership practices that positively influence teachers' instructional practices and in turn, and most importantly, student achievement. I am extremely grateful for the support of the Board of Trustees, my senior administration team, and Red Deer Catholic's administrators and staff. As a result of my learning, I believe our Division will benefit as we continue to put research into practice, knowing that the ultimate goal of our work together is increased student learning and well-being."

As Superintendent over the past two years, Dr. Finnigan has focused on the mantra of *Vision, Visibility and Voice* in terms of strategic alignment and fostering a sense of community throughout the Division. With her doctorate under her belt, Dr. Finnigan feels that she is well-equipped to further the Division's continuous improvement to provide the best possible faith-based education and continue to strive for excellence, providing quality, inclusive education for all students.

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“The Board of Trustees is very proud of Dr. Finnigan’s accomplishment. She’s worked very hard and her research will greatly benefit the Division,” said Anne Marie Watson, Board Chair at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

As an educational institution, RDCRS places a high value on lifelong learning and development. Please join the RDCRS community as we congratulate Dr. Finnigan on this significant academic achievement!

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,480 students in 20 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 850 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

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