



# News Release

## **Grand Opening of St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School: A State-of-the-Art Learning Haven in Red Deer**

***For immediate release – October 27, 2023***

Red Deer, AB - Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is delighted to announce the successful grand opening of St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School. This momentous event took place on October 26, 2023, in Red Deer's Kentwood neighbourhood. The school, with its innovative design and cutting-edge facilities, represents a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional educational experiences for students in grades 6 to 9.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School was delivered using Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) methodology utilizing the expertise of the design and construction team from conceptualization through construction. The IPD team consisted of Group2 Architecture, WSP Mechanical Engineering, WSP Electrical Engineering, Read Jones Christofferson Engineering, Clark Builders, World Class Contracting, AltaPro Electric, Collins Steel, Kerr Interiors and KTJ Consulting.

Clark Builders, the project's contracted construction company, along with the remainder of the IPD team played a pivotal role in turning the architectural vision into reality. The successful completion of this ambitious project underscores the commitment and professionalism of the entire construction team.

Construction of the two-storey school commenced in early 2022, and today's successful opening marks the realization of a collaborative effort between educators, community members, and the build team.

Murray Hollman, Chair of the Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools Board of Trustees, expressed his delight, saying, "The opening of St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School is a testament to our

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commitment to providing students with an exceptional learning environment. This school represents not only bricks and mortar but also dreams and opportunities for the future. We are proud to offer a space that encourages students to explore their passions and reach their full potential."

Superintendent Kathleen Finnigan shared her excitement for the new school, stating, "St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School reflects our dedication to preparing students for a rapidly evolving world. With its innovative design and modern amenities, the school empowers students to engage with learning in meaningful and exciting ways."

Principal Rob Coumont was thrilled to be part of such an incredible event. "Our staff and I are thrilled to welcome students, and parents to our incredible new learning facility. Our focus is not only on providing high-quality catholic education with a focus on academic success and Authentic Learning but also on creating a nurturing and inclusive community where every student feels valued and inspired."

The inauguration of St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School marks a significant milestone in the journey of education in Red Deer. As students step into the halls of this modern institution, they embark on a path towards academic achievement, personal growth, and a future brimming with possibilities.

*Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,085 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 600 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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