



News Release

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools signs MOU with Taiwanese schools

For immediate release – May 1, 2024

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) is pleased to announce the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Education Department of the New Taipei City Government in Taiwan. The new MOU builds on a four-year-old partnership between RDCRS and Taichung, Hui-Wen High School and other schools in Taiwan.

Under the MOU, RDCRS will welcome grade 10 students from schools in New Taipei City to the 2+1 program. The students will take two online English courses in Taipei before transferring to the City of Red Deer for their grade 12 year. Upon successful completion of the program, students will graduate with both an Alberta High School Diploma as well as a diploma from their school in Taiwan.

Taiwanese students who have previously completed the 2+1 program have gone on to attend universities in Canada (the University of Toronto, McMaster University, the University of Alberta, and the University of British Columbia) and abroad.

“Red Deer Catholic International has really enjoyed welcoming the students from Taiwan to study with us. The students are hard-working, respectful and they fit right in with our people and our culture. The community is grateful for the friendly and caring nature of our students in Taiwan which allows them to connect easily with our students and together are generating greater cultural awareness,” said Patricia MacRae-Pasula, Managing Director of Red Deer Catholic International.

“We stepped out of our country and discovered that differences are good. We expanded our horizons and learned that people here are kind, respectful and caring. We also grew in

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independence and have become more confident. We are excited about our opportunities studying at the University of Toronto and University of British Columbia," said current Taiwanese students En-Yu (Annie) Liu & Yu-Hsuan (Mischa) Lai.

"Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is thrilled to be working alongside the New Taipei City Government and schools in Taiwan. We're looking forward to partnering with even more schools in Taiwan and helping more students enjoy and benefit from the Alberta education system. It's been great seeing Taiwanese students thrive in our schools," said Dr. Kathleen Finnigan, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools Superintendent.

This new MOU was simultaneously signed by representatives from Global Ed British Columbia, the Ontario Educational Communications Authority, and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools on the evening of April 29, 2024. It will be valid until December 31, 2029.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,650 students in 21 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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