



# News Release

## **Twenty Red Deer Catholic students advance in Health Care Aide Program at Red Deer Polytechnic**

***For immediate release – October 29, 2024***

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is excited to announce that 20 students are continuing their studies from last year when they entered into the Health Care Aide (HCA) program in partnership with Red Deer Polytechnic and Clearview School Division. As part of their curriculum, the students attended their first lab of the year this past weekend at Red Deer Polytechnic's downtown campus.

This hands-on lab experience is a critical component of the HCA program, providing students with the practical skills needed for success in the healthcare field. The students are scheduled to begin their first practicum placements in the summer of 2025, where they will gain invaluable experience working directly with patients and healthcare professionals in clinical settings.

Upon completion of the program, the students will graduate in 2026, fully prepared to enter the workforce as certified Health Care Aides. This program is an essential pathway for students interested in healthcare, offering them an opportunity to acquire specialized training and make a meaningful impact on patient care in their communities.

"We are incredibly proud of our students for their dedication to this demanding program. This partnership with Red Deer Polytechnic gives them a head start in a rewarding career path, equipping them with the skills they need to succeed and serve others," said Tracey Millar, Career Pathways Coordinator for Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

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This program exemplifies the commitment of Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools to provide students with hands-on, career-focused learning opportunities that align with Alberta's healthcare needs. As these students continue their journey, they demonstrate the future of compassionate care within our community.

*Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 9,600 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 950 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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