

## MEDIA RELEASE CALGARY CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$125,000 IN GRANTS TO CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

CALGARY, ALBERTA - The Calgary Catholic Education Foundation (CCEF), the Calgary Catholic School District's (CSSD) independent charitable partner, announced today that it awarded over \$125,000 in grant funding to 45 projects at 42 schools, which will positively impact over 10,000 students this school year.

"We are thrilled that we could return to pre-pandemic funding levels", says Janet Lymer, Executive Director of the CCEF.

The CCEF received over \$260,000 in requests from 56 of the 117 schools in the CCSD this year. Over \$130,000 of this was for technology, emphasizing Chromebooks, tablets, and Loft TV. The CCEF funded 12 Loft TVs in school classrooms – an interactive whiteboard with intuitive technology and over \$17,000 in Chromebooks for students. In total, the CCEF funded \$79,000 in technology.

"We are hopeful that our funders and supporters will continue to support publicly funded Catholic education through the CCEF in Calgary, Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane," added Lymer.

"We are incredibly grateful for the technology grants our schools and classrooms receive from the Calgary Catholic Education Foundation," says Dr. Bryan Szumlas, Chief Superintendent of the Calgary Catholic School District. "These grants help integrate technology into the curriculum and provide enhanced opportunities for our students during this period of increased online learning."

In 2008, the publicly funded Catholic schools in Calgary stopped participating in charitable fundraising casinos as they are considered a social injustice in the Catholic faith. The CCEF was established to provide an alternative funding source for these casinos while ensuring publicly funded Catholic school students receive the same access to additional school needs as public schools. Since that time, the CCEF has awarded over \$3.2 million to classrooms and schools in Calgary, Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane.

The CCEF plans a series of fundraising events including a <u>2022 CASH Raffle</u>, the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual District Golf Tournament to be held in August and partnering with local businesses for virtual and in-person events. For more information on the CCEF or to donate, visit its website at the theccef.ca.