

Administrative Application	
Students 9003 Student Retreats	Last Reviewed /Approved on: August 14, 2024
	References Policy 1 – Division Foundational Commitments and Board Strategic Plan Policy 2 – Role of the Board Policy 12 – Role of the Director
	Status: Operational

Preamble

Student retreats within the Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) are facilitated at both the elementary and high school levels as a means to assist students to integrate their faith into a daily, lived reality. Student retreats serve important roles in the process of evangelisation and facilitate a deeper encounter between our students and Jesus. Student retreats support the school division's commitment to nurturing and supporting the value of Catholic education and formation.

Application

1. Elementary School

- a. Student retreats may be held in conjunction with a child's reception of the sacraments in which case they would be facilitated by the parish teams. Student retreats may also be held in conjunction with major events in a student's life, i.e. Grade 8 farewells.
- b. It is expected that school staff members will support and collaborate with the parish team where retreats are held in conjunction with the celebration of the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation.
- c. The length of a student retreat will be dependent upon the age of the students (e.g. shorter duration for younger students).

2. High School

- a. The content of the student retreat at Grades 9-11 should be tied to the curriculum at each grade level.
- b. Grade 12 students may be offered a full day retreat in conjunction with graduation as well as a class retreat scheduled as part of the Catholic Studies 30 program. The approved student fee for these activities may be collected with fall student fees.

3. All Retreats

- a. The retreat location should be carefully considered to allow students to experience a time of prayerful reflection apart from their daily routine.
- b. Every effort must be made to seek a retreat director or directors who are skilled at giving a retreat and at working with children and/or adolescents.
- c. At high schools, a most appropriate and effective strategy to consider is the use of senior students as retreat animators for younger students. The outcomes of increased leadership skills in senior students, improved relationships between senior and junior students as well as the effect of modelling make the efforts worthwhile. At elementary schools, a most appropriate and effective strategy for a whole school retreat is to use a trained retreat team in conjunction with local resource people (e.g. pastor, pastoral assistant, youth minister) to direct the retreat sessions.
- d. A liturgical celebration during a retreat experience is considered of paramount importance. The celebration may be Eucharistic or non-Eucharistic but should involve students in planning and the execution of the celebration so that the vision of Vatican II that the church celebrates with "full, conscious and active participation is realized". (*Constitution on Sacred Liturgy # 14*)