



News Release

RDCRS connects with residents in the Kentwood neighbourhood about St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School

For immediate release – April 1, 2021

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools has been provided funding for the construction of a new middle school in The City of Red Deer. St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School will be located in the neighbourhood of Kentwood. The location of the new school was selected to support current and future student populations in the community.

“The Division’s middle schools in Red Deer are currently operating at over 120 per cent capacity and we expect continued enrolment growth,” said Board Chair, Kim Pasula at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

“Families and young people in our region continue to choose Catholic education. Over the last 10 years, enrolment in our Division has increased by 50 per cent and today well over 10,000 children are attending our schools.”

Work has begun on the design of the school, with preliminary geotechnical testing completed in early 2021 to understand site conditions.

“The new St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School will bring a \$25 million infrastructure project to our community. The new school will help to alleviate the overcrowding in our existing schools and create new educational and amenity opportunities for the young people and families that live in the surrounding neighborhoods. We look forward to sharing more about the project and hearing from community members at the upcoming online meeting, the first in a series of planned engagement sessions,” says Pasula.

To keep residents informed on the progress, the Division is holding a community engagement session on Tuesday, April 6 at 5:00 p.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The intent of this engagement session is to provide a forum for community

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feedback and an opportunity to voice concerns with the overall design of the school. This first engagement session will focus primarily on the site layout.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School features:

- The school will be a two-storey design to accommodate 700 middle school students.
- The school is planned to follow a traditional school year and will operate as a closed campus.
- The school site will provide parking lots to staff and visitors, with a potential student drop-off lane within the visitor parking lot.
- The current playground and skating rink will be retained on-site, and the retention pond will not be altered.
- Additional playground space is intended to be installed, including a proposed basketball pad.
- Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools will provide an opportunity for user groups to rent the facility after-hours and on weekends.
- Construction is expected to start late fall of 2021, with the school opening September 2023.

For more information, please visit <https://www.stlorenzoschool.ca/>. Media are welcome to attend this community engagement meeting.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,360 students in 20 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds, as well as an at-home learning program. It also supports the learning of over 1095 students in a Traditional 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.

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