



News Release

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School launches new CTF: Hockey Extension Program

For immediate release – October 2, 2025

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School (STF) is excited to announce the launch of a new Hockey Extension Program through its Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) courses. For the first time, Grade 8 and 9 students at STF can participate in a high-quality, skill-based hockey programming designed to align with student interests while promoting engagement, wellness, and sport development.

“Our focus on student engagement led us to expand CTF programming in ways that honour student voice and choice,” said Rori-Lynn Daniel, Principal at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School. “We are thrilled to partner with Notre Dame High School to bring this programming to life for our students. The Hockey Extension Program not only allows students to strengthen their skills and develop leadership on the ice, but it also introduces them to exciting career pathways in coaching, sports medicine, athletic training, nutrition, and sports management — helping them see how their passion for hockey can translate into real-world opportunities.”

This innovative program is offered in collaboration with École Notre Dame High School’s (NDHS) Hockey Academy, providing a seamless extension of the high school’s well-established programming. Together, the schools are helping student-athletes develop both on and off the ice while easing their transition from middle school to high school.

“As a division we are excited to be able to enhance the CTF program offerings to our students,” said Ike Hanna, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services. “This is a great opportunity for the Gr. 8 and 9 students of St. Francis of Assisi Middle School to grow in their skills and learn about the different career pathways that are connected to hockey and athletics.”

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Program Highlights

- **Eligibility:** Open to STF Grade 9 students enrolled in organized hockey for the 2024–2025 season and registered for 2025–2026. If space is available, Grade 8 students may join.
- **Sessions:** 22 on-ice skill development sessions per term at Penhold Regional Multiplex, plus 4 off-ice sessions focused on leadership, nutrition, career pathways, and goal setting. These off-ice sessions introduce students to potential career opportunities in coaching, sports medicine, athletic training, nutrition and wellness, sports management, and media, helping them connect their passion for hockey with real-world professional pathways.
- **Schedule:** Mondays and Wednesdays during Terms 1 and 2. Students are assigned to one term, not both, based on level of play, position, and available spots (including room for goalies each term).

Instruction Team

- **Lead Instructor:** Mr. Erik Lodge, NDHS Hockey Academy
- **STF Teacher:** Mr. Jordan Koopmans
- **On-Ice Coaches:** Mr. Brett Wold (NDHS), Mr. Jordan Koopmans (STF), Mr. Tanner Jaillet (goalie instruction), and other certified instructors affiliated with the NDHS Hockey Academy.

Currently, 23 students are enrolled each term, training in skating, puck handling, passing, shooting, and game awareness, while also gaining valuable off-ice insights and exploring career pathways from guest speakers.

STF is proud to celebrate the program's early success and looks forward to its growth in the years to come.

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