



1292 Heenan Place • Kenora, ON P9N 2Y8 • T: (807) 468-9851  
F: (807) 468-8094 • [www.kcdsb.on.ca](http://www.kcdsb.on.ca)

*Dedicated to Excellence in Catholic Education*

## **Design Thinking: Building Our Future with Our Students in Mind**

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is a Roman Catholic School System dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and the Church. We pride ourselves on encouraging innovative practice for all staff to make a visible difference in the learning for our students. We have already transformed many learning areas and classrooms to reflect the environment as the third teacher and will continue on this journey.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is a small Catholic school board in northwestern Ontario. We cover the communities of Kenora, Ear Falls and Red Lake in the most western part of the province of Ontario. Our geography creates large expenses for travel. This CODE funding has created a reality for innovative professional development for our senior team where travel is a large portion of our cost.

The senior team (Director of Education and Superintendent of Instructional Services) will be attending the Leadership for Learning Academy in Toronto, Ontario on July 12, 27, 28 and August 11, 2016. We will also be following up by attending the Learning and the Brain Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in November 2016 using board level funding to consolidate our learning and further explore future innovations.

We are exploring design thinking and how that can impact learning environments for students in our research and learning. The Leadership and Learning Academy will provide new ideas and practices around leadership in our culture of innovation, provide cutting edge learning and research and lead our thinking on how to put what we are learning into effective and informed practice within our board. The Learning and the Brain Conference will enable us to reflect on changes we have made and further enhance our learning and innovative practices moving forward. It is important to us to consider the elements of design thinking in our work as it allows us to start with empathy for our clients (students, parents, community and staff) and build designs and prototypes to test our theories in an ongoing inquiry model centered on the strengths of our system. The events that we will be attending will allow us to grow our understanding of this and implement it in a meaningful way. This will help us to build better pedagogy as well as to be better prepared to handle changes needed to adapt to our ever changing needs.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board will continue to encourage innovative practices around the environment for student learning. We will collect student voice and ensure that students, staff and parents are a part of change.