INTRODUCTION
Good morning. At the opening of this day, it is fitting that we begin with prayer in light of our 2018-19 board theme, reverence the dignity of the whole person. In simple terms, this year’s theme is about having holy respect for one another as children of God.

OPENING SONG
Please join in our opening song,
(Sugg. You Are the Voice, CBW 576; Prayer of St. Francis, Spirit & Song, 199; Open My Eyes, Lord, Spirit & Song 196)

OPENING PRAYER,
Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. God our Father, we thank You for the gift of each other: The co-workers and colleagues who make up our Catholic school board family. Help us this year to grow in holy respect for the gift of all Your children, especially those we are called to lead and serve. We ask You this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

And now, let us listen to God’s word.

READING
A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 19, 13-15)
Then little children were being brought to Jesus in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE
(Psalm 139, 1-10, 13, 14, 17, 18)
The response is, We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from far away. R

We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!
You search out my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely. R

*We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!*

You hem me in, behind and before,
And lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is so high that I cannot attain it. R

*We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!*

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. R

*We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!*

If I take the wings of the morning
And settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
And your right hand shall hold me fast. R

*We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!*

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
You knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. R

*We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!*

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them – they are more than the sand;
I come to the end – I am still with you. R

*We praise You, for we are wonderfully made!*

OPTIONAL:
Song (sugg., *You are Near*. 487 CBW III), Video or Slide Show
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for the Church. That all who follow Jesus will come to know the depths of God’s love for them in Christ and share this love in simple ways with everyone they meet. *We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

2. Let us pray for the world. That peoples of all nations will learn to live with holy respect for one another as children of God. *We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

3. Let us pray for our Catholic school communities. That the Holy Spirit will open our eyes and hearts to treat each other with holy respect as God’s precious daughters and sons. *We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

4. Let us pray for the safety, welcome and well-being of all those people in the world who are not respected as God’s children – especially among immigrants and refugees, the poor, the sick, the unborn and the elderly. For their safety and needs. *We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

5. Let us pray for our families. That the warmth of God’s love will fill our hearts and homes. *We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

6. Let us pray for our activities this day. That the Holy Spirit will guide our discussions, that we may grow in holy respect for the gift of one another in our Catholic schools. *We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

7. Let us pray for all our needs – those spoken aloud and those that are in our hearts. *We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

And now, let us unite our voices with the prayer of Jesus, using the words he gave us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

We give You praise and thanks, O God, for making us in Your image: each of us a beautiful reflection of You. Help us each day to grow in holy respect for all Your children. May Your loving Presence at work in our lives be a light for all those who look to us for leadership and guidance as we together follow Jesus, Your Son.

We make this prayer to You in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Please join in our closing song... (Sugg., 2018-19 *Board Theme Song, You Are the Voice*, CBW 576; *Prayer of St. Francis*, Spirit & Song, 199; *Open My Eyes, Lord*, Spirit & Song 196)