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Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board



School Plan for Sustained and Continuous Improvement 2008 - 2010

ST. LUCY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**25 Kanata Road
Brampton, Ontario.
L7A 3R2**

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/ST.LUCY>



“We are not blind to the needs of others.”

“Each one called by name.” Isaiah 43:1

Our Mission Statement

At St. Lucy Catholic School, all staff members share the belief that our children come first and they dedicate themselves to the well-being of all of our students. They share high expectations for student learning, foster a passion for learning in the school, and work together to help students achieve their individual potentials. With Board support for this our third year in existence, the school has evolved as a professional learning community characterized by collaboration, mentoring and mutual respect. Staff members value professional learning and foster a commitment to sharing among colleagues. The mission at St. Lucy is to enhance the learning and the development of the whole child while fostering an enriching and secure learning environment. With a strong commitment to maintaining a respectful tone within the school, each person is held accountable for their role in perpetuating that respect.

As our doors opened wide on September 05, 2006 for the very first time, there was an incredible sense of pride evident in the faces of the children and in the conversations with the parents. Our St. Lucy is the Patron Saint of the visually impaired and from our Opening Day Liturgy, the imagery associated with sight, blindness, shared vision, needs and the optics of tolerance and recognizing differences in people has been a common thread in our fabric. Since day one, we have adopted a sentence which has now, unintentionally, become our mantra or our Mission if you will and that is, "We are not blind to the needs of others!" We have taken this short but most powerful sentence and wrapped it around the service projects we have already been well immersed in. Our Community already shares this common focus and by imbedding it in our Liturgies, our work and our play, we have created a strong foundation on which a powerful faith community can be built.

St. Lucy Catholic School is committed to Catholic education as outlined in the mission statement of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Our students come to us with a variety of strengths and needs, with our Catholic *faith* as our common bond. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our *faith* and values systems form the foundation of our school program. We provide a learning environment where models of Gospel values and Catholic doctrines, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school. The school motto, "We are not blind to the needs of others", reflects our commitment to recognizing the needs of others in the local and global communities. Our school goal is to continue to foster the development of well-rounded, confident students who exhibit a joy for learning and life.

During 2007-2008, literacy and numeracy, along with Catholicity, continued to be the focus for our school. Emphasis was placed on providing a balanced program that involved our students in a variety of reading, writing, listening and oral communication experiences across the curriculum. Computers are an integral part of the curriculum and support students in the area of mathematics, research and word processing skills. Staff are continuously involved in professional development opportunities which enhance their knowledge as they strive to use exemplary teaching practices to facilitate meeting Ontario curriculum expectations with their students. Our Faith values are infused in our day to day activities at school. Whether in the playground or in the classrooms, we are always conscious of the fact that we are a Catholic school first and foremost. In all of our dealings with one another, we strive to reflect Jesus' face to those we encounter.

Special education resource teachers support our students that are particularly challenged by the curriculum. ESL support is also available for students who are new to the English language. The parents of our community, in general and via the Catholic School Council, are active and involved in all areas of the school including classroom volunteers, program and policy input and fund raising to support various school initiatives.

At St. Lucy Catholic School, we are confident that our balanced program of religion, academics, arts and technology offer our students a well-rounded and value-centered education which will prepare them to make good choices for the future.

Measures of Student Achievement and Success

All students in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board schools are provided with the same opportunities to learn, to grow and to achieve their potential. Assessment results ensure that schools, parents and other stakeholders in our communities have access to high-quality information needed to make informed judgments and effective educational decisions. Schools continuously collect assessment data on student learning to plan for student growth. Teachers assess knowledge, skills and strategies on an ongoing basis. Regular assessments, both classroom and large scale, allow teachers to determine the effectiveness of their instruction, assess student learning, and make informed decisions about how to organize and pace instruction.

Provincial Measures of Student Achievement

The Primary and Junior EQAO assessments of reading, writing and mathematics are conducted annually by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) in every publicly funded elementary school in Ontario. The assessments are based on *The Ontario Curriculum* and measure how well students know, understand and apply their skills and knowledge in reading, writing and mathematics. At the secondary level, the Grade 9 EQAO assessment of mathematics is administered at the close of each semester (or at the end of the year in non-semestered schools) each year to measure Grade 9 student achievement of mathematics expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Mathematics, 2005 (Revised)*. In addition, EQAO conducts the annual Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) each March. Successful completion of this test (or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course) is one of the 32 graduation requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The provincial assessments provide a ‘snapshot’ of how well students are learning what is expected of them in the curriculum at specific points in time. The assessments complement local school data and can help identify ways to influence instruction and other practices to help students learn more effectively and efficiently. Students’ work is assessed according to curriculum expectations and using a four-level assessment scale that reflects the four achievement levels in *The Ontario Curriculum*. Level 3 on the assessment scale represents the provincial standard and identifies a high level of achievement of the provincial expectations. The results from the assessments are used by boards and schools to improve learning and teaching and not for ranking schools. **Ranking of schools is inappropriate and could result in misleading comparisons, which may ignore the unique conditions that affect student achievement and prevent schools and the board from addressing the critical issue of improving learning for all students.**

School, Board and Provincial Achievement Results: 2007 - 2008

SAMPLE: School results on the EQAO Grades 3 & 6 reading assessments indicate that the school-wide emphasis on reading has produced a marked improvement in our students’ reading and mathematical skills. Our Grades 3 and 6 results in reading and mathematics have exceeded the results from the previous year. Our writing results show some improvement from the previous year but suggest that there is room for improvement.

Percent of students, enrolled in the grade (Method 1), who scored at and above the provincial standard (Levels 3 & 4):

	Reading (All Students) Levels 3,4	Writing (All Students) Levels 3,4	Mathematics (All Students) Levels 3,4
Grade 3 ('07-'08)			
School	69 %	55 %	49 %
Board	65 %	71 %	68 %
Province	61 %	66 %	68 %
Grade 6 ('07-'08)			
School	88 %	84 %	77 %
Board	70 %	72 %	62 %
Province	66 %	67 %	61 %

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
 Planning for Sustained and Continuous Improvement

System Goals	Actions for Implementation	Indicators of Success	Monitor and Review for Success	
			Evidence from Monitoring and Review Cycles	Completion Date / Next Steps
<p>Catholicity</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to enhance the faith formation of all community members (staff, student, trustees, parents) by strengthening the partnership of home, parish and school.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review board-wide and school expenditures in the area of Religious Education and faith formation during the 2008-2009 budget year, to determine the average budget commitment and make recommendations for future annual budget commitments commencing in 2009-2010. • Create and implement a Catholic Community Study Unit for elementary and secondary schools. • Increase opportunities for students and staff to learn more about and experience social justice, service, and stewardship of the earth. • Recognizing the Catholic call to be stewards of the earth, to be champions of social justice, to make ethical decisions and to care for one another, the Dufferin-Peel community will work to develop a sustainability committee that will review best practices for design of new schools, sustainability and recycling 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster student spiritual development within the image of Christ through the celebration of virtues education with the parish and school community <p>ST. LUCY BROAD GOAL #1</p> <p>To continue to partner closely with Guardian Angels Parish to support the organization of our 10 Liturgical events per year and to play an active role in our sacramental life on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent and pastoral staff involvement and attendance at Virtues celebrations 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal feedback from: pastoral team, parents, school council, staff, school Virtues team and students 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2009 • Ongoing feedback will inform the school's planning for next steps

<p>programs and targets and an integrated curriculum approach that will assist all in our community in working towards greener schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and integrate faith stories and teachings (all staff within their roles as Catholic educators), in order to provide a Catholic perspective across the system. • Expand work on equity and diversity by focusing on hiring and promotion practices, professional and staff development, and curriculum development and learning resources, so that all feel valued as part of the fabric of our diverse community. • Continue to nurture relationships between school and parish teams, and school and home. 				
<p>Community Development</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to strengthen community relationships in an effort to sustain confidence in our commitment to improving support for student learning.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to focus on Catholic professional learning communities. • Enhance opportunities for communication and collaboration with all community partners. • Increase awareness and build system-wide capacity towards the development of a comprehensive whole-school approach to violence and bullying prevention, and progressive discipline within our Catholic faith perspective. 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement PALS / Circle of Friends ▪ Youth Faith Ambassadors <p>ST. LUCY BROAD GOAL #2</p> <p>To ensure that all aspects of effective school organization and discipline are weaved into the fabric of our school; Catholicity, Safe Schools Initiatives, Diversity and Inclusion.</p>	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced number of conflicts • Increased student sense of safety 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal feedback • suspension data / incident tracking data • Safe Schools Survey 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2008 • April 2009

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
 Planning for Sustained and Continuous Improvement

System Goals	Actions for Implementation	Indicators of Success	Monitor and Review for Success	
			Evidence from Monitoring and Review Cycles	Completion Date / Next Steps
<p>Excellence in Student Achievement</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community, within the context of the Catholic Graduate Expectations, is to continue to establish and nurture the conditions needed to advance high levels of student achievement, and narrow the gap in student achievement so that all students can grow in their journey to know God and ultimately transform the world around them.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and deepen the implementation of high quality literacy and numeracy practices and achievement in all schools in order to contribute to the development of the whole child. • Expand differentiated learning opportunities, within fiscal responsibility, for students including cooperative education, dual credits, specialist high skills majors, credits for external credentials, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs, e-learning opportunities, experiential learning, Continuing and Adult Education, 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop critical literacy skills across the curriculum in all grades <p>ST. LUCY BROAD GOAL #3</p> <p>To ensure daily literacy blocks and practices that embrace <u>all key</u> components of Balanced Literacy for all students, JK-8.</p> <p>To expand and deepen the implementation of high quality numeracy practices with a particular focus in our grade 3 curriculum, due to poor grade 3 EQAO results.</p>	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on critical literacy in school and classroom planning (refer to detailed action plan available at the school) 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved critical literacy as evidenced through a variety of assessments including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CASI ○ Student work samples ○ Teacher observation ○ EQAO • Use of Skopus data warehouse to monitor student achievement data 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2008 • April 2009 • June 2009

<p>and specialized programs including Extended French, French Immersion, and International Baccalaureate programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop electronic resources to support teachers of combined grades that reflect curriculum expectations, differentiated instructional strategies, and planning for assessment and reporting. • Enhance effective transition plans for students entering Dufferin-Peel and moving from elementary to secondary, and for students leaving secondary to community work place and post secondary institutions, with a particular focus on helping students with At-Risk factors. • Enhance the continuous cycle of assessment for learning and intervention planning within a multi-disciplinary team process. • Implement Ministry initiatives relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ongoing curriculum review -Ministry Policies (e.g. ELL, - Aboriginal Policy Framework, Safe Schools) -Special Education -Literacy / Numeracy Secretariat -Student Success/Learning to 18 -Alternative Education / Continuing and Adult Education <p>ensuring the distinctiveness of Catholic education is explicitly</p>				
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infused.				
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<p>Financial Accountability and Transparency</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to continue to comply with board policies and best practices in the areas of fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a balanced and sustainable budget to balance student achievement with fiscal prudence within the Catholic stewardship context. • Develop a financial support tool (Finance Department), that will identify best practices to ensure financial accountability and transparency at the system and school level, including compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Board Policy -Audit Recommendations -General Administrative Procedures • Provide in-service sessions related to the finance support tool for administrators and support staff. 	<p>ST. LUCY BROAD GOAL #4</p> <p>We will ensure that the school budget is aligned to system/school goals vis-à-vis improved student achievement.</p> <p>We will continue to seek input and fiscal support from our parent community through regular communication, parents meetings, surveys and our monthly Catholic School Council meetings.</p>	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget allocation will align with school priorities for student achievement 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use i-Ren reports to monitor and track school budgets 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2008 • May 2009
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<p>Student Enrolment Impact</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to develop proactive strategies to address the impact of changes in student enrolment and its impact on staff, students, and our Catholic community through all practices of the Board including Human Resources, Employee Relations, Budget, Planning, Etc., in a manner that will ensure sustainable balanced budgets in the future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop labour relations and human resources strategies that will minimize the impact of fluctuations in enrolment. • Closely monitor historical enrolment trends and use up-to-date assumptions in the development of enrolment projections. 	<p>ST. LUCY BROAD GOAL #5</p> <p>We will ensure accurate reporting of student enrolments through the electronic register (e.g. following Ministry guidelines).</p>	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electronic registers reflect accurate classroom enrolments 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enrolment registers align with Ministry guidelines 	<p>SAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly
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This sheet may be used by schools that choose to develop additional goals.

System Goal:	INSERT SYSTEM GOAL CHOICE HERE			
School Goal	Actions for Implementation	Indicators of Success	Data from Monitoring and Review Cycles	Completion Date / Next Steps

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